FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 AUGUST 1985

Libyan-Tunisian Crisis

Libya's plans against Tunisia have reached a "new and dangerous stage" with the violation of Tunisian airspace, the massing of Libyan forces along the borders, and the "flagrant threat" to use force against Tunisia, the Tunisian Foreign Ministry warned in a statement broadcast by Tunis radio 23 August. Accusing Libya of "hatching aggression" and staging "provocations" against Tunisia, the statement also blamed Libya for failing to answer Tunisian calls for consultation over the expulsion of Tunisian workers. Meanwhile, the Tunisian authorities conveyed a "stern protest" to Libya over the latter's threat to use force against Tunisia, announced the recall of the Tunisian general commissioner from Tripoli for consultations, and decided to close the Libyan consulate in Safaqis, Tunis radio noted. The radio also broadcast a letter from the Tunisian foreign minister to the UN secretary general expressing "deep concern" over the continuing "grave developments," noting that Tunisia has made preparations to confront "all eventualities" following Libya's "unambiguous threats" against Tunisia, and holding Libya fully responsible for undermining peace and security in the region. The Tunisian ministerial council subsequently reviewed arrangements and precautions necessary to confront any threat, the radio disclosed.

Libya's foreign liaison secretary informed the Arab League of the Jamahiriyah's "extreme displeasure" over Tunisia's expulsion of Libyan nationals, viewing these "provocative and high-handed measures" as an escalation of the situation, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported. The Libyan official affirmed that the Jamahiriyah exercises its right to dispense with foreign manpower and this measure is not directed against Tunisia or any other state.

In related diplomatic developments, two Moroccan envoys arrived in Monastir 24 August for talks with the Tunisian prime minister, according to Tunis radio, which noted that one of the Moroccans said the talks focused on the role of "reconciliation and rapprochement" that Moroccan King Hassan II might play in the Libyan-Tunisian dispute. The Moroccans subsequently met with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli, JANA reported. Another mediation effort is also underway by Kuwait whose foreign minister delivered messages to Col Al-Qadhdhafi and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba 25 August, KUNA disclosed.

Earlier, the French ambassador conveyed a message to the Tunisian authorities expressing France's support for Tunisia, according to diplomatic sources in Tunis cited by Paris radio. Nevertheless, JANA maintained that the French ambassador in Tripoli had stressed that his government has issued no official statement of support for Tunisia in the latter's dispute with Libya. As for Libya's view of any U.S. involvement in the dispute, Tripoli radio cited a statement by JANA's political editor criticizing U.S. expressions of support for Tunisia, while Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio claimed that Tunisian officials have asked the United States to intervene "militarily and directly" on Tunisia's behalf.

Syrian-Libyan-Iranian Talks in Damascus

The foreign ministers of Syria, Libya, and Iran issued a joint statement denouncing "the 'Arafatist capitulationist policy," reaffirming their backing for the Palestine National Salvation Front, and expressing "full and absolute" support for the Palestinian people's struggle to "liberate their entire usurped territory" and establish a state "on the entire Palestinian territory." The statement, broadcast by Damascus radio after the tripartite talks in the Syrian capital over the weekend, also drew attention to the "seriousness" of Israel's growing nuclear capability. The Syrian and Libyan ministers reaffirmed their countries' support for Iran's stand in the war with Iraq, the statement added, while the Syrian and Iranian delegations denounced U.S. "provocations" against Libya and condemned "suspect moves" against the Jamahiriyah that use as a "pretext" the measures taken by the latter "within the framework of its sovereignty."

The Libyan and Iranian foreign ministers were received by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during their stay in Damascus, according to Damascus radio. Meanwhile, a Tehran radio commentary on the tripartite talks maintained that the three countries constitute an organized front which is confronting U.S. policies and which has already managed to "defeat" the recent extraordinary Arab summit meeting in Casablanca.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes dropped eight 500-kg bombs on the Khark Island area 25 August, obstructing Iranian efforts to extinguish fires caused by the previous raid 15 August, according to a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. An Iranian military spokesman cited by Tehran Radio said the Iraqi claim had a "large propaganda aspect," though he mentioned that Iraqi planes overflew the Persian Gulf and "dropped a few bombs in the waters around Khark Island." Iran will answer the "desperate efforts" of Iraq at an "appropriate time," the spokesman added.

In another development, Tehran radio reported that Iranian forces launched an offensive in the Qasr-e Shirin-Khosravi front 25 August, advancing 7 km into Iraqi territory and inflicting over 200 casualties. A military source cited by INA called the Iranian allegations "absolutely baseless."

Israel

A Netanya resident was shot and killed in the center of Tulkarm 24 August, while a Tiberias resident was shot and critically wounded in Janin later in the day, Jerusalem radio reported. The IDF imposed a curfew on Tulkarm and Janin, the radio added.

Two Palestinian "combat groups" were responsible for the attacks, according to a Palestinian military spokesman cited by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, adding that the two Israelis were intelligence officers. Reacting to the shootings, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Jerusalem radio that in places where Jews cannot come and go freely and safely there will be no peace and quiet for anyone. Brigadier General Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, said Israel will have to take "very serious measures" to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, Jerusalem television reported.

As for the deportation issue, Jerusalem radio reported 26 August that Khalil Abu Ziyad has agreed to leave Israel for 3 years of his own free will, and the expulsion order issued against him will be waived. If authorities are convinced that Abu Ziyad has not participated in any hostile activity while away, he will be allowed to return to Israel.

In another development, Jerusalem radio announced that a katyusha rocket was directed at the Galilee panhandle 25 August from Lebanon. There were no injuries and no damage was caused.

Lebanon

Fighting resumed across the Christian-Muslim combat lines in Beirut 25 August, according to Voice of Lebanon radio, which held the Amal Movement responsible for violating the cease-fire and shelling the eastern area. Muslim and Christian members of the Central Security Committee had earlier disagreed over the deployment of Syrian observers, Beirut radio reported, with the Muslims calling for the Syrians to be deployed deep inside the various areas and the Christians insisting that they be deployed along the contact lines only. An Amal Movement statement broadcast by the radio reaffirmed that deploying the Syrians deep inside all areas is the only way to prevent more shelling, while a Lebanese Forces official cited by the Voice of Lebanon accused Amal of seeking to exacerbate the situation, noting that his side had approved the five-point cease-fire agreement on 22 August and was consequently "surprised" by Amal's demand that Army and Lebanese Forces artillery emplacements be supervised by Syria.

As for the political situation on the Christian side, Dani Sham'un was elected "unopposed" as leader of the National Liberal Party the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. However, Voice of Lebanon radio said the election was "opposed" by Elie Aswad, who pledged commitment to the principles of the party under Camille Sham'un, the party founder and Dani's father. In another development reported by the Voice of Lebanon, the Lebanese Forces inaugurated a new television network, the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation.

PFLP Leader's USSR Visit

Reporting the outcome of PFLP General Secretary George Habash's 19-23 August visit to Moscow, TASS noted that the PFLP delegation condemned the Jordanian-PLO agreement and that the Soviet side stressed the need for Palestinian unity on a "principled anti-imperialist basis" in cooperation with Syria and other "patriotic" Arab forces. The Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* disclosed that Habash also met in Moscow with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, who visited the USSR recently. A member of Khalaf's delegation told AL-QABAS that their talks focused on ways to end the differences within the PLO.

Egypt

The director of Cairo's security forces department could not confirm or deny whether three men driving around in a stolen car with stolen license plates and carrying weapons and ammunition were linked with the murder of the Israeli administrative attache last week, MENA reported. When police closed in on the suspects after a high speed chase, one of the suspects was apprehended, another shot himself in the head, and the third managed to escape. The investigation is still underway, the agency added.

Sudan

Defense Minister 'Uthman 'Abdallah, in a statement to *AL-AYYAM* reported by SUNA, said the armed forces started lifting the siege which rebel forces imposed on a garrison in the Yirol area. He added that the situation in the south was generally stable. Meanwhile, the clandestine Sudanese People's Liberation Army radio reported that rebel forces inflicted 341 casualties during a clash last month in southern Kurdufan. In a related development, the government policy of arming people in some areas of Kurdufan and Darfur was rejected by citizens in nearby areas, SUNA revealed.

Iran

The clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio reported 24 August that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's health had reached a "dangerous stage" over the past 2 days and he was receiving emergency medical care.

In a separate development, KUNA reported that Tehran authorities have executed a Central Committee member of the opposition Feda'i-ye Khalq organization.

Saudi Arabia

Relations with USSR — A Saudi prince heading a sports delegation to the Soviet Union held talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Korniyenko 23 August, KUNA disclosed in a report from Moscow.

Iranian Pilgrims — The Saudi authorities recently arrested a number of Iranian pilgrims, IRNA reported. Meanwhile, a Saudi official cited by SPA noted that 152,227 Iranians undertook the pilgrimage this year, the largest foreign contingent among 851,761 pilgrims from 118 countries.

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Foreign Minister, Delegation Depart for Geneva
LD231747 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, is heading a DRA delegation which left Kabul today for Geneva to continue talks on solving the political situation around Afghanistan with a Pakistani delegation through the mediation of a representative of the UN secretary general.

Delegation Leaves for Economic Talks in Moscow
LD252007 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Sarwar Mangal, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee, heading a high ranking delegation of the DRA, left this afternoon for the Soviet Union to take part in the fifth session of the permanent joint Afghan-Soviet commission on economic cooperation, which is due to be held in Moscow. Abdol Majid Sarboland, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, several ministers, the deputy head of the State Planning Committee, the deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's protocol department, and F.A. Tabeyev, the Soviet ambassador in Kabul, were present at Kabul airport to see off the delegation.

Rebels 'Crushed' in Nangarhar, Herat Provinces
LD251823 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] According to a BAKHTAR report quoting a source of Nangarhar's security forces, during successful operations carried out recently in that province by the security forces, several members of the Gulbuddin band who were disturbing the peaceful life of the residents of those areas, were crushed and 1 ZK-1, four DShKs, 10 (Greenov), 5 heavy American machine-guns, 2 rocket launchers, 32 various kind of ammunition, 98 American-made anti-tank mines, 14 antipersonnel mines, 5 machines for exploding mines, 6 machines for (?laying) mines, 2 sets of mine controllers, 4 sacks of explosives, 10,000 rounds of ammunition, 100 American-made hand grenades, 100 mortar mines, and 18 shells for recoilless guns were captured by the brave security forces. Also seven depots for food, ammunition, and clothing were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of an operation carried out by the security forces in Angel district, Herat Province, a number of rebels belonging to the Jami'at-e Eslami band, including Sarwar known as Torkan, the ringleader of this criminal band, were crushed and a number of weapons and ammunition were siezed from them.

'Heavy Fighting' Reported in Paktia Province
NC251910 Paris AFP in English 1900 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 25 (AFP) — Heavy fighting has broken out in Afghanistan's eastern Paktia Province, where thousands of Soviet and Afghan troops were reportedly deployed earlier this month to crush a strong guerrilla force along the Pakistani border, Moslem rebel sources said today.

The fighting was around two major garrison towns, Khowst and Gardeyz, and the road linking them, the sources said.

Soldiers were fighting to take control of the road, which the guerrillas had been using to transport men and materials to 11 Afghan provinces.

In the Pakistani border town of Peshawar, resistance sources citing a radio message today from a guerrilla commander said that 15 Soviet and Afghan soldiers had died in an ambush Friday when some two dozen tanks and other military vehicles were blasted by mines.

Guerrillas also destroyed a number of Army vehicles near Gardeyz and Khowst in rocket attacks, while another four tanks were blown up by mines near the Pakistani border, killing the crew of at least seven, the sources said.

Two rebels died and seven were wounded in these clashes, the sources added.

Two helicopter gunships were downed and seven crew members killed in fighting in the Lowgar Valley near Kabul, the rebels said.

'Compatriots' in Saudi Arabia Return Under Amnesty
LD242128 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] According to BAKHTAR, quoting a security source, eight of our compatriots who were living in Saudi Arabia recently returned to their homeland taking advantage of the amnesty decree of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council and the message and resolution of the historical Great Assembly of the DRA.

They thanked the authorities that arranged their return and pledged to make sacrifices for the people, country, revolution, and gains of the revolution.

Tanzania's Nyerere Arrives In New Delhi 25 Aug

BK250903 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] The Tanzanian president, Mr Julius Nyerere, was accorded a warm welcome on his arrival in New Delhi this morning on a 4-day state visit. He was received at the airport by the president, Giani Zail Singh; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; some of his cabinet colleagues; the Lok Sabha speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar; and others. President Nyerere, who is to lay down office shortly, earlier visited the DPRK and China.

In his welcome address, the president, Giani Zail Singh, described Mr Nyerere as a trusted friend and an outstanding leader of the nonaligned world. He said he looked forward to continued fruitful cooperation with Tanzania in the common search for solution of issues like disarmament and economic imbalances which affect peace and stability of the world.

Thanking Giani Zail Singh, Mr Nyerere said the purpose of the visit is to have a final discussion with the Indian leaders before his term of office as president comes to an end. He paid his tributes to the long and firm friendship which has existed between the two countries since Tanzania became independent. He expressed his confidence that this bond of friendship will continue under his successor.

On his arrival at Rashtrapati Bhawan [presidential residence], President Nyerere called on the president, Giani Zail Singh. The meeting lasted 30 minutes.

Zail Singh, Nyerere on S. Africa

BK260335 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Aug 85

[Text] India and Tanzania have voiced their concern over the situation in South Africa and condemned the atrocities of the racist pretoria regime. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Tanzanian president, Mr Julius Nyerere, in New Delhi last night, the president, Giani Zail Singh, reiterated India's support to the liberation movement in South Africa. He said the recent imposition of emergency in many parts of that country has worsened the already sorry plight of the oppressed majority. Rulers of South Africa are [word indistinct] in their uncompromising attitude mainly because of the unfortunate stand of some powerful nations. The president lauded the role of Tanzania in championing the cause of liberation movements in South Africa.

On the Indian Ocean, he said the increasing superpower military presence in the area is posing a grave threat to the security and stability of littoral and hinterland states. It is a matter of great concern to India, he said.

President Nyerere lauded India's support, both material and economic, given to the freedom movement in Namibia. He said India's voice on this issue in the nonaligned, the Commonwealth, and the United Nations has always been loud and clear.

Hector Jayewardene Meets With Gandhi 23 Aug

BK231621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] The head of Sri Lanka's Government delegation to the Thimpu talks, Mr Hector Jayewardene, met the prime minister in New Delhi this evening. Mr Jayewardene arrived in the capital today from Thimpu, where the second round of talks between the Sri Lanka Government and the Tamils on the ethnic issue were adjourned earlier this week. The indefinite adjournment followed renewed violence in the island.

Radio Reports Deportation of Tamil Leaders

BK251609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Two Sri Lankan Tamil leaders have been deported from India — Mr A.S. Balasingham to London and Mr S. Chandrahasan to New York. Both of them are British passport holders.

AFP Links Deportation, Meeting

HK250805 Hong Kong AFP in English 0754 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 25 (AFP) — Two Sri Lankan Tamil separatist leaders were deported early today from India, one to London and one to New York, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

A top theoretician of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), A.S. Balasingam, was flown from Madras to Bombay yesterday and put on an Air India flight to London today.

The convenor of the Protection of Tamil Eelam from Genocide (PROTEG), S.C. Chandrahasan, was also taken to Bombay and put on an Air India plane to New York, PTI said quoting airport sources.

The orders to deport them and a third militant, Sathyendra, were made on Friday.

Mr Sathyendra, of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO), left for Britain before the order could be served on him.

Mr Balasingam issued a statement in Madras Friday, just before the order was served on him, that the LTTE would give arms and training to Tamil militants in Sri Lanka's northern province in readiness for "total war."

The deportation of Mr Balasingam, who is also a spokesman of the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF) which groups the LTTE and other separatist organisations, was made in response to a request by Hector Jayewardene, who led the Sri Lankan Government delegation to peace talks in Bhutan.

The second round of talks with the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Sri Lankan Tamil party, and Tamil militant groups broke down early this month.

The ENLF sent a telegram to Premier Rajiv Gandhi after the deportation orders were served saying Mr Balsingam was a diabetic living in India for medical reasons. It added that it was feared Britain might deport him to Sri Lanka, though he holds a British passport.

Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu, the southeastern state of which Madras is the capital, condemned the deportation.

The state is populated mainly by Tamils, many of them sympathetic to the separatist aspirations of the Sri Lankan Tamils, analysts say.

"It is not known why the Government of India took this harsh step", said Era Sezhian, president of the state unit of the Janata Party.

(In Colombo, officials said they welcomed the deportations.)

Gandhi Interview With PRENSA LATINA Reported

Comments on Sri Lanka, Punjab

BK241608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Excerpts] The prime minister has said indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians and violations of the cease-fire in Sri Lanka are a matter of deep distress. In an interview with PRENSA LATINA, the Cuban news agency, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said India is assisting as best as it can in bringing the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil groups together to hammer out a settlement acceptable to all concerned.

In reply to a question, he said we are certainly faced with a terrorist challenge. The tragic assassination of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal was yet another manifestation of the menace of terrorism. The people behind the assassination have been identified. However, it is not just these people who are immediately responsible. What matters is the people who are really behind them and here we have our suspicions about linkages with the extremists in other countries. The prime minister also said we are not convinced that all the governments that are involved are taking hard enough action against such people.

On Sri Lankan Problems, Pakistan

BK241251 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] The prime minister has said indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians and violations of the cease-fire in Sri Lanka are a matter of deep distress. In an interview with PRENSA LATINA, the Cuban news agency, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said India is assisting as best as it can in bringing the Sri Lanka Government and the Tamil groups together to hammer out a settlement acceptable to all parties concerned. Mr Gandhi said cooperative good-neighborly relations in the region are a matter of high priority for India. Our relationship with Pakistan has been somewhat more difficult and has been even further complicated by Pakistan's pursuit of a nuclear weapons program, but the mutual affection of our people is the best guarantee that we will eventually succeed in building a healthy cooperative relationship with Pakistan.

In reply to a question, he said we are certainly faced with the terrorist challenge. The tragic assassination of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal was yet another manifestation of the menace of terrorism.

Radio Reports on Gandhi Statement on Punjab

BK231631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] The prime minister today strongly defended the holding of elections in Punjab and said that democratic election is the people's answer to the brute force employed by a small section to impose their will on the masses. He declared that the government will not allow the divisive forces to prevail. Mr Gandhi was making a statement in both houses of Parliament on elections in Punjab.

Replying to the clarifications sought by members in the Rajya Sabha, the prime minister urged all political parties to cooperate in the ensuring of fair and peaceful poll in the state. He said he would like the political parties to work concretely to achieve this. He said either all political parties unitedly face the sinister challenge of terrorism by strengthening the democratic process or they succumb to the threat from terrorism and extremism. In Punjab, Mr Gandhi said, all else is secondary. How individual parties fare is of little consequence. It does not matter who wins or who loses. Mr Gandhi said what matters is that the lamp of democracy is not extinguished. We should serve as the instrument to enable the democratic process to triumph whatever the risk to ourselves. As custodian of the people's will and mandate, he is fully committed to this course, he added.

Referring to the demands for postponement ofthe elections in Punjab, Mr Gandhi said the Election Commission is satisfied that free and fair elections can be held in the state and he fully subscribes to this view. In his statement, the prime minister said that in the context of recent events in Punjab, the electoral process has acquired a new national significance. The fundamental issue before all political parties committed to the democratic system is that whether we should allow the exercise of the free will of the people to be obstructed, frustrated, and subverted by the forces of extremism, terrorism. Mr Gandhi said on a correct response to this question hinges the fate of the democratic system in India.

Expressing his surprise that most of the opposition parties are speaking against holding elections in Punjab, he pointed out that in August 1984 they strongly advocated holding elections when a bill for the extension of president's rule in the state was moved.

Referring to the doubts raised by members about the security arrangements provided to Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, the prime minister said that Sant did not like security arrangements inside the Gurdwara [Sikh temple]. The security personnel were not in as much in number as normally required.

Seeking clarifications, most of the opposition members wanted to know if the government will be able to provide adequate security for the candidates, leaders of political parties, and the voters. They said political speeches during electioneering in the state can vitiate the gains of the settlement on Punjab.

Akali Dal Leader Arrested for Longowal Murder

BK260257 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 26 Aug 85

[Text] The Amritsar police has arrested a former Punjab legislator and the leader of the Akali Dal-Joginder Singh group, Mr Ranjit Singh Brahampura, in connection with the murder of Sant Longowal. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, he has been remanded to police custody for 15 days.

Election Commission To Meet Punjab Officials

BK231623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] The Election Commission has called the senior state officials from Punjab to New Delhi next week to discuss poll arrangements. The secretary to the commission, Dr R.P. Bhalla, said in New Delhi today that the discussions are being held to ensure free and fair poll.

The state chief secretary, chief electoral officer, and the director general of police are expected to attend the meeting. Security arrangements to maintain peace during campaign and polling will also be finalized.

2 Killed in Punjab by 'Unidentified Miscreants'

BK260900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Aug 85

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were killed when three unidentified miscreants riding a scooter fired at them near Harike in Amritsar District last night. The miscreants took away the scooter of the victims while fleeing. Police have launched a massive hunt for the culprits.

AFP Links Killings, Elections

HK260618 Hong Kong AFP in English 0607 GMT 26 Aug 85

[Text] Amritsar, India, Aug 26 (AFP) — Suspected Sikh gunmen shot dead two Hindus near this Punjab town as preparations began for holding elections in the troubled northern state, officials said today.

Police, quoting eyewitnesses, said the two Hindus were shot in a village near here last night by suspected Sikhs riding a scooter.

The assailants, whose number was not immediately known, escaped after robbing the victims of gold rings and wrist watches, police said.

The killings were the first since suspected Sikh gunmen shot dead a top moderate Sikh leader, Harchand Singh Longowal, in a Punjab village last Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the process for holding the September 25 elections which will end two years of direct federal rule in the state began today.

The Federal Election Commission issued an official notification calling upon the state's 10 million strong electorate to choose their 117 State Assembly and 13 parliamentary representatives.

The elections will return a State Assembly, suspended in October 1983 because of violence in the state, and will also send 13 Punjab members to the lower house of the federal Parliament.

The elections were announced after a July agreement between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Longowal aimed at ending a violent Sikh campaign for more autonomy. The agreement was denounced by militants.

Last night's killings prompted authorities here to announce fresh security measures. Eyewitnesses said that paramilitary troops and the state police held "flag marches" through the streets this morning.

"The exercise is to infuse a sense of security among the residents before the elections," a state official told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE.

Reportage on Punjab Governor's Activities

Meeting With Gandhi, Minister

BK231633 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr Arjun Singh, met the prime minister twice in New Delhi today. He discussed the situation in the state and was asked to ensure free, fair, and peaceful elections in the state. He has also been advised to take stern measures against terrorists.

The governor, who later left for Chandigarh, also met the defense minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and then discussed with him measures to check infiltration from across the border.

Situation, Elections Reviewed

BK241606 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr Arjun Singh, reviewed the latest law and order situation in the state and the arrangements for the elections at a high-level meeting in Chandigarh this evening.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Arjun Singh said the forces of peace, amity and stability in Punjab are at present fighting a decisive battle against the forces of disruption and instability. He instructed the officials entrusted with election duties to ensure that poll is held in a free and fair atmosphere. The governor called

upon the senior officiers to take all the political parties into confidence to evolve a code of conduct during the elections.

Police Director General Replaced

BK240336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr Arjun Singh, immediately on his return from Delhi held a high-level meeting in Chandigarh last night. The AIR [All India Radio] Chandigarh correspondent understands (? Mr Singh was) reviewing the latest law and order situation in the state. Security arrangements required for the forthcoming elections in Punjab were also discussed.

Mr Sathishdutt Pandey has been appointed the new director general of police who replaces Mr K.S. Dhillon. Mr Pandey is likely to take over within a day or so.

As already reported, the state government has ordered a high-level inquiry into the security arrangements made for the protection of the late Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal. The adviser to the governor General Gowrishankar will conduct the inquiry.

Meanwhile, the state government has ordered withdrawal of cases from prosecution involving 223 more people. The decision was taken by a high-level committee, thus bringing the total number of persons against whom the government has ordered withdrawal of cases total over 2,500.

Akali Dal Holds 'Important Meeting' 25 Aug

BK231635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] The Akali Dal has conveyed an important meeting of the district jathedars [group leaders] of the party in Chandigarh on Sunday. This was stated by the secretary general of the party, Mr Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, in Chandigarh today. He said that the candidates desirous of party ticket for entering Lok Sabha and assembly elections can send their applications to the party headquarters in Amritsar.

Meanwhile, the senior Akali leader, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, said that he will carry out to the best of his ability any duty assigned to him by the party. In a statement in Chandigarh today, he said it will be his endeavor to complete the task undertaken by the late Sant Longowal.

Acting President Elected

BK251612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Aug 85

[Excerpts] The former union minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, is the new acting president of the Akali Dal; and Sant Ajit Singh of Ropar, the chairman of the parliamentary board of the party. This decision was taken at a special meeting of the party held in Chandigarh this afternoon.

Briefing newsmen, the secretary general of the party, Mr Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, said that the meeting has also decided to constitute an ad hoc committee comprising 25 districts and state jathedars [group workers] of the party. Mr Barnala was authorized to add more members to the ad hoc committee if need be.

Mr Ramoowalia said that the parliamentary board of the party will be constituted later by Mr Barnala and Sant Ajit Singh after mutual consultations.

The meeting adopted resolution fully endorsing every word of the Punjab accord reached between the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the late Harchand Singh Longowal on the 24th of last month. It called upon the center to implement the accord in the same spirit as it was signed.

Through another resolution, the meeting paid rich tributes to the late Sant Longowal for his services to the Sikh religion, the people of Punjab, and the country. It also condemned the sant's dastardly murder.

Meanwhile, the United Akali Dal is reported to have authorized Mr Joginder Singh to take a decision on participation in the ensuing elections. A decision to this effect was taken at the end of a meeting of the senior party functionaries in Amritsar today.

Mr Joginder Singh told newsmen that he had heard the views expressed by different sections of his partymen and his decision will be in keeping with these views.

PTI, quoting informed sources, says that during the discussion serious differences marked the stormy proceedings.

Minister on Oil Production; Soviet Participation

BK241030 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] The government is considering to invite fresh bids from foreign oil companies for exploration and production of oil to supplement the efforts of Oil India and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. This was stated by the petroleum minister, Mr Naval Kishore Sharma, while addressing the parliamentary consultative committee attached to his ministry in New Delhi. He also informed the committee that India has reached an agreement with the Soviet Union for integrated oil exploration and development work in the Cauvery and Cambay Basins. He said the target of oil production for the current year is over 30 million tonnes.

Mr Sharma told the committee members that nearly 20 million cubic meters of gas is produced every day. While 11.35 million cubic meters is being used, the rest is flared.

The minister expressed the hope that the construction work on the Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur gas pipeline project will commence by the end of this year. This project is to supply natural gas to six fertilizer plants.

Paper Cautions on 'Nuclear Race' with Pakistan

BK230940 Delhi The INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Aug 85 p 6

[Editorial: "Lessons From Dhruva"]

[Text] Dhruva, the new 100 MW research reactor built entirely with indigenous know-how and equipment, is a landmark in more ways than one. It once again demonstrates the very considerable capabilities acquired by Indian scientists and engineers, notwithstanding the fact that the project has run well behind schedule. Dhruva has a role in both peace and, potentially, in war. Official media have highlighted its ability to produce new isotopes of medical, agricultural and industrial value like iodine 131, chromium 51 and molybdenum 99. But nobody would build such a large reactor just for producing isotopes. Dhruva will also yield very substantial quantities of plutonium which can be used in fast breeder reactors [FBR] to generate electricity. Indeed, a test FBR is already under construction in Madras.

The plutonium produced by Dhruva will not be subject to any international safeguards and can therefore also be used for military purposes if necessary. Plutonium from Dhruva will not be contaminated by the isotope plutonium 240, as is the case with plutonium generated in nuclear power stations like Tarapur. If Pakistan goes nuclear, it will be a simple matter for India to convert this plutonium into bombs. Pakistan has insisted that its nuclear programme is only for peaceful purposes. But it has no commercial use at all for the highly enriched uranium it is trying to produce at Kahuta.

One Pakistani scientist has talked about Pakistan being decades ahead of India in uranium enrichment (and by implication in producing bomb-grade material). It needs to be said that Dhruva's plutonium production will be far larger than the enriched uranium that Kahuta can hope to produce. It would be a serious mistake for anyone in Pakistan to think that it can win a nuclear race. There are no winners in a nuclear race. Any hard evidence of a Pakistani nuclear capability — a nuclear explosion is not necessary — will elicit a response from India. Pakistan may be some way from achieving this capability, but as time passes the capability will come. The answer must therefore not be to have nuclear arsenals on both sides (even as both condemn the arsenals of the two superpowers). The two countries need to come to a nuclear understanding. Only that can ensure that reactors like Dhruva and Pakistan's facility at Kahuta are used for peace; not war.

Canada Said To Withdraw 'Anti-India' Program

BK240906 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] The Canadian Government has told its television and radio commission to withdraw an anti-India radio program. The program was sponsored by the Sikh world organization. The matter was taken up with the Canadan authorities by the Indian Consulate at Toronto.

PATRIOT Comments on BBC as 'Mouthpiece'

BK260515 Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Aug 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Mouthpieces"]

[Text] The Thatcher Government put the gag on the BBC for the Ireland film and there were reverberations around the globe about freedom of the media. But that is only a small part of the story. The Irish tragedy is much larger than the freedom of the BBC and has its roots in British colonialism against which the BBC has never raised its voice. It has relevance for us in India because what began in Ireland as an experiment in the use of demographic components in the furtherance of colonial control was also put to use against us in the form of proposals for "Home Rule" and the "two-nation theory" which created division in India just as it has perpetuated it in Ireland. Manifestations of a continuing malaise are evident in the BBC's portrayal of the joy of the Khalistani separatists at the assassination of Indira Gandhi. As far as we are concerned, the BBC's freedom is of a piece with Frank Camper's freedom to train terrorists to kill our leaders and we should not waste our tears on them but try and understand why Ireland is happening and why Margaret Thatcher, an heir to a legacy of which Conservatism is proud, should want not to allow the screening of the BBC film. The "two nations" that Mrs Thatcher's Conservative forebears foisted on the world are based on the concept of religion as a territorial entity which is why Protestants are fighting Catholics in Ireland and "Muslim" Pakistan must forever be at loggerheads with "Hindu" India. Which is why we must be chary about the so-called freedoms that are wished upon us while our own freedoms are circumscribed by foreign vested interests. Which, again, is why we must be careful of mouthpieces. In the present context the world "mouthpieces" is advisedly used in the same vein as that used by Al Capone, the Mafia chieftain. He maintained mouthpieces — his particular jargon for lawyers who would speak on his behalf in a court of law — at high prices to deflect the long arm of the law and lend, through legal quibbling, a semblance of respectability to the underworld. After the Bhopal tragedy, plane loads of US mouthpieces arrived in India promising quick compensation in US courts. Now it is being put across to us that perhaps Indian courts would give quicker relief. So let's beware.

Lokpal Bill Introduced in Parliament 26 Aug

BK261008 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Aug 85

[Text] A bill introduced in the Lok Sabha today seeks to provide for the appointment of a lokpal [administrator]. He will inquire into the allegations of corruption against the union ministers. Ministers of state, deputy ministers, and parliamentary secretaries of the central government also come under the purview of the bill. However, the lokpal shall have no jurisdiction to inquire into any allegation against the president, the vice president, the prime minister, the Lok Sabha speaker, and the chief justice and other judges of the Supreme Court, comptroller and auditor general of India, the chief election commissioner, and the chairman and members of the Union Public Service Commission. A serving or retired judge of the Supreme Court or the person qualified to be a judge of a court shall be appointed as lokpal for

5 years. The appointment will be made after consultations with the chief jusice of India.

The bill, consisting of 33 clauses, deals with powers of the lokpal, the nature of complaints and other aspects of his functioning. Under the provisions of the bill, any person other than a public servant can file a complaint before the lokpal. The complainant has to make a deposit of 1,000 rupees. The lokpal, however, will not inquire into any matter in respect of any person if he has any bias about him or the matter. Any matter which has been referred to for inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act with his prior concurrence will also not be inquired by the lokpal. The complaints made after the expiry of 5 years from the date of the alleged offence will also not be looked into.

When all or any of the allegations are substantiated, the lokpal will communicate its findings under recommendations to the prime minister. He will also intimate the complainant and the public functionary concerned.

The bill provides for the prime minister to inform the lokpal of the action taken on his report within 3 months.

Those giving false evidence and making false complaints will be punished. Imprisonment ranging from 1 to 3 years and a fine up to 50,000 rupees may be awarded to the person making a false complaint. Persons giving false evidence will get a jail term up to 3 months or a fine of up to 500 rupees, or both.

In the statement of objects and reasons of the bill, the law minister, Mr Sen, said the bill seeks to carry out the recommendations made by the Administrative Reforms Commission. Tracing the attempts in the past to bring such a bill, he said similar bills which were introduced in the house earlier on three occasions lapsed because of dissolution of the house.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Geneva Talks

BK251115 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that Pakistan is participating in the UN-sponsored fifth round of indirect talks on Afghanistan in a positive and constructive spirit. The talks begin on Tuesday. Talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport before his departure for Geneva this morning, he said that the basis of Pakistan's viewpoint on this issue is inherent in its belief that the Afghanistan problem can only be resolved politically and not militarily. He said Pakistan is not only serious but also sincere in its efforts toward a settlement of this problem and hopes that a peaceful solution of the Afghanistan problem will be found. He said the problem is very difficult and complicated but it needs to be resolved as soon as possible. Pakistan's total efforts will be directed toward this end, but any progress at the talks will depend on how far the other side is ready to move forward to arrive at a settlement, he added.

The foreign minister referred to his informal talks with the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan in New York last month and said that the next round of Geneva talks appears to be difficult. It is not appropriate for him to predict anything about the talks at this time.

In reply to a question, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said in Pakistan's view, the main issue is the withdrawal of forces, without which no meaningful settlement is possible.

Reportage on Visit of Malaysian Official

Shipping Agreement Signed

BK241546 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] The Pakistan-Malaysia Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation held its concluding session in Islamabad today. The talks followed the initialing of an agreement on joint shipping under which direct shipping contacts are to be established between the two countries. The agreement will improve trade between the two countries and the ships of each country will receive special concessions in the other. The two governments have also agreed to take all possible steps to provide various facilities for bilateral trade. The foreign secretary of Pakistan, Niaz A. Naik, and the Malaysian secretary general for foreign trade, Tan Sri Zainal Abidin, initialed the agreement on behalf of their governments.

Official Visits Afghan Refugees

BK241257 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] The visiting Malaysian secretary general of foreign affairs, Mr Tan Sri Zainal Abidin, visited an Afghan refugee tented village at Kachagarhi near Peshawar this morning. Talking to the refugees, he reiterated his country's full support to the just struggle of Afghan people. No country should be allowed to send its forces into another country. Malaysia would continue its efforts at international forums for a peaceful and political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. He commended the efforts of the people and Government of Pakistan for providing shelter and other humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees.

An elder of the Afghan refugees explained the circumstances which forced them to leave their hearths and homes in Afghanistan and seek shelter in Pakistan.

Later, Mr Zainal Abidin was briefed by the provincial Afghan refugee commissioner on relief measures undertaken for Afghan refugees by the Pakistan Government in collaboration with UNHCR, World Food Program, and other national and international voluntary organizations.

Paper Writes on Planned End of Martial Law

GF231740 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 16 Aug 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Prime Minister's Declaration"]

[Excerpts] All the speculations about the duration of martial law in the country have finally been set at rest. Speaking from a platform erected at the site where All India Muslim League, under the leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, passed that historic Pakistan resolution forty-five years ago, the prime minister Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo declared that martial law will be lifted by the end of the year. With the 1st of January 1986, would come complete restoration of democracy.

Reviewing the country's foreign relations, the prime minister expressed satisfaction with our longstanding ties of friendship with China and the U.S. He expressed his optimism about the prospects of a peaceful political solution of the Afghanistan problem and hoped that the Afghan refugees would be able to go back to their homes with dignity and honor. With the solution of this problem our relations with the USSR were likely to improve. He also expressed the hope that the problem of Kashmir would be solved in a just manner and the Indian leadership would refrain from making statements which adversely affected the developemnt of amity in bilateral relations between Pakistan and India. The prime minister ended his speech with a quotation from the Quaid-i-Azam: "It is easy to get independence, but it is difficult to preserve it". Earlier in his speech he had asked the people to think and think again as to why the country had to undergo one martial law after another? Whether any link between the Quaid's statement and the prime minister's question was intended, one can't be sure; but the history of the country seems to indicate that our people have yet to find a way to fully safeguard their freedom.

Equipment Handling Improved at Nuclear Plant

BK251111 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] The control and equipment systems handling capacity of the Karachi atomic energy plant has been further improved to help modernize and develop the computer and the control and equipment systems at the complex. The attainment of the skill to

adeptly use the control and equipment panels has greatly helped in the running of the Karachi atomic energy plant despite the stoppage of assistance and cooperation by the country which had supplied the equipment and technology for this atomic plant.

Delegation To Attend Nuclear Conference

BK260334 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Aug 85

[Text] Pakistan will attend the third appraisal conference on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons scheduled to be held in Geneva as an observer. An official spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that although Pakistan is not a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty for reasons known to everyone, Pakistan has adhered to the basic objective of the treaty and has neither produced a nuclear weapon nor acquired one from elsewhere. He said Pakistan's decision to attend the appraisal conference for the first time reflects its continued support for the basic objective of the treaty.

The spokesman added that Pakistan is in favor of effective, nondiscriminatory arrangements for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons at regional and global levels.

The spokesman recalled that Pakistan had supported the ratification of the treaty by the UN General Assembly in 1968. However, it did not attend the first and second appraisal conferences in 1975 and 1980.

Radio Reports Intense Fighting in Afghanistan

BK231533 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Aug 85

(Text) Reports from Afghanistan speak of an intensification in fighting between Afghan mujahidin and Soviet-Karmal forces in various areas. The Soviet-Karmal forces reportedly suffered heavy casualties in the Khash area near Asmar garrison south of Konarha. The Soviet-Karmal forces are reported to have launched new offensives in the Khowst area this week.

More Afghanistan Fighting Reported

BK241025 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce fighting between the mujahidin and the Soviet-Karmal troops in various places.

In Nimroz Province, 38 Soviet-Karmal troops were killed and 22 injured when the convoy coming to Khash Rud from Delaram area was encircled by the mujahidin on the 12th of this month. Two tanks and two trucks were also captured. Five mujahids were martyred in the encounter.

During an attack on an ammunition depot in Helmand Province, three Soviet-Karmal troops were killed and a lot of arms and ammunition seized by the mujahidin. Three Karmal soldiers, including an officer, joined the freedom fighters.

BANGLADESH

Paper Cites Minister on India Repatriation Plan

HK250925 Hong Kong AFP in English 0920 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 25 (AFP) — The chief minister of the eastern Indian state of West Bengal has said that Bangladeshi settlers in the neighbouring Indian state of Assam should not be forced to return to Bangladesh, the Dhaka daily *DAININK DESH* reported today.

Jyoti Basu said in a telephone interview with the newspaper that a recent agreement between the Indian federal government and leaders of an Assamese campaign against foreign settlement in Assam would render many settlers homeless. "None of these affected people should be forced to return to Bangladesh," Mr Basu said.

"I don't know the reaction of Bangladesh on this issue, but I feel that none of the affected people should be sent back across the border. We don't support the Assam accord," he said.

The Bangladesh Government has kept a low profile since the agreement was singed 10 days ago, and has yet to react formally.

Last week a Foreign Office spokesman said that there were no Bangladeshis in Assam, and that the government would wait for more details to see how the accord would affect Bangladesh.

Jatiya Front Steering Committee Established

BK251540 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Aug 85 p 1

[Excerpt] The five-party pro-government Front — Jatiya Front — a 12-member steering committee was formally launched on Friday. [Sentence as published]

The component parties of the front are Janadal, BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] (Shah Aziz) United Peoples Party, Ganatantrik Party and Muslim League (Siddiky).

The objectives of the front are independence and sovereignty, Bangladeshi nationalism, democracy, establishment of Islamic ideals and ensuring freedom of all other religions and social progress leading to economic emancipation.

The front expressed its solidarity with the policies and programmes as enunciated by President Lt. General H.M. Ershad. The front also declared its commitment to uphold and inspire the policies of the present government regarding reforms, decentralisation of administration, disinvestment of nationalised industries, and investment in the private sector along with public sector.

The Steering Committee of the front has been formed with two representatives from each of the five component parties and two members without having party identity.

The members are Shah Mohammad Azizur Rahman and Barrister Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury (BNP Shah); Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury (Janadal); Mr Sirajul Hussain Khan and Mr Anwar Zahid (Ganotantrik Party); Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Mr Mostafa Jamal Haider (UPP); Mr Safauddin Kader Chowdhury (Muslim League Siddiky).

Mr. A.K.M. Mayedul Islam, General Secretary of BNP (Shah) who is a signatory to the manifesto of the front was however not included in the Steering Committee. The members of the Steering Committee without party identity are Barrister Maudud Ahmed and Mr. Anwar Hussain.

NEPAL

Groups Responsible for Recent Bombings Named

HK250645 Hong Kong AFP in English 0631 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Katmandu, Aug 25 (AFP) — Nepalese Home Affairs Minister Jog Mehar Shrestha today named lawyer and former legislator Ram Raja Prasad Singh as being responsible for a series of bombings in which eight people died. Mr Singh is leader of the Janwadi Morch group which has claimed responsibility for the June bombings, in which eight people were killed and 25 injured.

A former M.P., Mr Singh told the Indian Sunday magazine earlier this month that the bombings were the first step in a revolution to overthrow King Birendra, and had been planned for four years. He has been charged with treason in Nepal, and spends most of his time in India, informed sources in New Delhi said.

Mr Shrestha today named Mr Singh as responsible for the June bombings in a report to the National Panchayat (parliament) on investigations into the matter.

"In the course of the investigation, altogether 1750 people have been arrested for interrogation," Mr Shrestha said, and 101 of them were still being held for further questioning. He added that a special court of high court judges would be set up within a month to investigate the findings of the government in the case and to try the alleged terrorists under a new anti-terrorism law enacted after the bombings. The law, passed on August 9, provides for the death penalty for terrorism within Nepal or terrorist attacks against Nepalese institutions abroad.

The principal perpetrators of such acts are liable for the death penalty, while others face sentences up to life imprisonment.

Reading the report in the National Panchayat, Mr Shrestha said that on the basis of evidence and statements given by people arrested during the investigation, it was found that Mr Singh and some others were involved in the bombings.

He said that 180 sticks of high power gelatine, 27 detonators, electric devices, time setting devices, bolts, broken scissors and several other items were discovered in the possession of some of those arrested.

He did not reveal the identity of any other suspects, or the nationalities of the 101 people still in prison.

Further Details
BK251529 Katmandu External Service in English 1445 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Excerpt] Home Minister Jog Mehar Shrestha has said that those responsible for the series of bomb explosions in the month of June this year in different parts of the country, included Ram Raja Prasad Singh.

Delivering a statement on a matter of general topic importance in the Rashtriya Pachayat [parliament] today, the minister added that it was the [words indistinct] in the course of investigation and evidence collected in that connection. He said that extensive investigation conducted so far, including the statements recorded of those arrested in connection with the explosions of bombs and the proofs and evidence (?found), prove that the crime was committed by those included Ram Raja Prasad Singh. The minister also informed the house that some extermists were also involved in the crime.

The minister then informed the house that a tribunal would be constituted within 1 month to take necessary actions against the criminals on the basis of the proofs and evidence collected in the course of the investigation. He also said that once cases were instituted against the criminals for legal actions, the names of the criminals concerned could be also published, and added that it would be not proper to publish all the names in advance before cases were instituted against them.

The minister then said that out 1,750 persons taken into custody in connection with the subversive activities perpetrated by the terrorists, only 101 people were under custody for investigation.

Referring to the information given to the house about the destructive elements, who with the intention of terrorizing the people exploded bombs on 19 and 20 June at different places of the kingdom, he said that he as the home minister and even the prime minister had been informing the house from time to time about the picture emerging about the destructive elements who terrorized the people by exploding bombs. He thanked the house on behalf his majesty's government for the kind understanding shown and cooperation given by the Rashtriya Panchayat members in the task. He also expressed gratitude on behalf of his majesty's government to the house for the cooperation extended by the Nepali people in the task of its investigation without minding at all the difficulties encountered by them.

Delhi Reports 500 Political Prisoners Released
BK241554 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] In Nepal, about 500 political prisoners were released today. According to Home Ministry sources they include former deputy parliamentary speaker Mr Mahendra Narain Nidhi, belonging to the banned Nepali Congress Party.

SRI LANKA

Foreign Minister Leaves for Nonaligned Meeting
BK251310 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Excerpt] The minister of foreign affairs, Shahul Hameed, left for Angola today to attend the nonaligned ministerial conference.

Indian Leaders Try To 'Revive' Thimpu Talks
BK251109 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] India's efforts to revive the Thimpu talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil militant groups on the island's ethnic problem continued yesterday with a meeting of two top officials of India and Sri Lanka. Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari had a long meeting with Dr H.W. Jayewardene, brother of President Jayewardene and leader of the Sri Lankan delegation, who arrived in New Delhi on Friday from Thimpu. The meeting was in continuation of the talks Dr Jayewardene had with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Friday. Mr Bhandari was also present at the meeting when Mr Gandhi underlined the need for revival of the peace talks to find a political solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

The foreign secretary is also in touch with the Tamil United Liberation Front secretary general, A. Amirthalingam, who is also in New Delhi. Meanwhile, the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, M.G. Ramachandran, on his return from abroad had stayed in New Delhi to discuss the latest situation in Sri Lanka with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and other important persons. Mr Ramachandran is expected to return to Madras today.

Arrest of Two Tamil Leaders in India Reported
BK241138 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] The Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, has told the leader of the Sri Lanka delegation to the Bhutan talks, Mr H. W. Jayewardene Q. C. [Queen's Counsel], in New Delhi that the government should give priority toward creating a suitable climate to resume meaningful talks. Mr Gandhi also said that India would continue to support Sri Lanka to solve the ethnic problem. At this meeting, Sri Lanka's New Delhi high commissioner, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna, and the Indian foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, were also present, according to All India Radio. Mr Jayewardene will meet with Mr Bhandari today for further talks.

All India Radio also reported that Dr A. S. Balasingham, a top Tamil guerrilla leader and spokesman of the hardline Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE], and S. P. Chandrahassan, a citizen of Sri Lanka and the son of the late S. J. V. Choganayakam, have been arrested and ordered to leave the country by the Indian Government. Mr N. Satyendra of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Front has already left India expecting that he might also be deported, according to a Tamil group.

According to LTTE sources, the Indian Government feels that Balasingham was the cause for the walkout of the Tamil groups from the Thimpu talks and stood in the way for the meeting of the Tamil groups with the Indian premier, Rajiv Gandhi. Earlier reports said, quoting REUTER, that Balasingham is a British national of Sri Lanka Tamil origin who arrived in Madras some time ago. He was served with an immediate deportation order for alleged violation of Indian immigration laws. The REUTER report also said that a swoop on other terrorist leaders was not ruled out by the Indian sources.

Earlier reports said that the Indian premier, Mr Gandhi, had also invited Tamil groups for a meeting. But a Tamil guerrilla spokesman told REUTER that they will not meet Mr Gandhi until Balasingham is released. Balasingham had earlier said that his group did not favor a resumption of the talks. He set preconditions for a new round. These were: an immediate halt to alleged massacres, the return of troops to barracks, and concrete new proposals to meet demands of power to be devolved to Tamils in areas where they predominate. Balasingham called off the cease-fire which began on 18 June because of what he called the massacre of Tamil civilians.

Meanwhile, the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, who is in Geneva, told a news conference that he blamed the collapse of the peace talks on what he called the unreasonable demands of the Tamils. He said that India would have to bring more pressure on the terrorist groups to accept a reasonable solution. Mr Athulathmudali pointed out that the unfortunate position is that the minimum demands of the terrorist groups are really in the clouds and far more than the maximum that 90 percent of the country is prepared to give.

Tamil Leader Goes on Hunger Strike

NC241825 Paris AFP in English 1812 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Excerpts] Madras, India, Aug 24 (AFP) — A Sri Lankan Tamil militant leader went on indefinite hunger strike today to protest an Indian Government deportation order issued yesterday and his being held in police custody, his secretary said.

S. C. Chandrahasan, convenor of the Protection of Tamil Eelam from Genocide (PROTEG), refused even to take a glass of water, his secretary told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE after visiting him.

Mr. Chandrahasan is one of three Sri Lankan Tamil leaders told to leave India within 48 hours yesterday. The orders came after the breakdown a week ago of peace talks in Bhutan between separatist Tamil groups and the Sri Lankan Government.

He is a Sri Lankan citizen and according to the deportation order can choose which country to go to.

Earlier today, a separatist organisation based here urged Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi not to deport one of the others affected by the order, A. S. Balasingham, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Mr. Balsingham is a spokesman of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a group fighting for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka. He is also in custody.

The ENLF was to meet here later tonight to discuss the deportation orders, PTI said.

Meanwhile, posters have appeared in the streets of this city — capital of Tamil-dominated Tamil Nadu State — accusing the Indian Government of "betrayal" in deporting the Tamil leaders.

They came here following ethnic clashes in July, 1983 in Sri Lanka.

All opposition parties in Tamil Nadu condemned the deportations. Era Sezhian, president of the state unit of the opposition Janata Party, described the decision as "unwarranted" and urged the government to withdraw it.

"It is not known why the Government of India took this harsh step," he said in a statement.

The third militant, Mr. Sathyendra of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), left for Britain before the deportation order could be served on him.

Eelam Leader Maheshwaran Leaves India

BK261049 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 26 Aug 85

[Text] Uma Mahesahwaran, leader of the Sri Lanka Tamil terrorists group PLOTE, The People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, disappeared from India after the breakdown of the second round of peace talks at Thimpu. Incoming sources told LANKAPUWATH, the national news agency, that he was taking a flight to London. However, he has been persuaded to come back to India to help in the future peace talks, according to the agency. LANKAPUWATH exclusively reported last Saturday that the PLOTE leader has left India after the breakdown of the talks.

Radio Reports 25 August Clash With Rebels

BK251055 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Twenty six terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire at a jungle training camp in Tirukkovil area early this morning when a group of officer cadet recruits ran into a terrorist camp during a training exercise. According to the Ministry of State this was a combined training camp for EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] groups.

The terrorists fired at the troops who returned fire in self-defense killing 26. Shotguns, foodstuffs, terrorist literature, SLR magazines and ammunition and a register of firing test results were recovered from the camp.

A magisterial inquiry is being held.

Tamils Say Houses, Shops Burned

HK261144 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT 26 Aug 85

[By Neville de Silva]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug 26 (AFP) — Troops killed 30 Tamil civilians in eastern Sri Lanka and police earlier torched some 400 Tamil shops and houses, sources in the main Tamil political party said today.

Government officials said that after a Tamil separatist landmine blew up a vehicle Friday injuring six police, some 40 Tamil premises nearby had been set ablaze by the police.

But the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) sources said nearly 400 shops and houses had been torched after the landmine exploded in the Kalkudah area.

The TULF sources said residents had fled their homes and many were housed in temporary camps in three villages. They also said troops killed 30 Tamil civilians yesterday in another incident in the east. Two persons apparently left for dead were now in Batticaloa hospital, they said.

Meanwhile Sri Lanka's Security Council chaired by President Junius Jayewardene held a meeting today, informed sources said.

They said the army had told the council that an official report released yesterday, saying troops had killed 26 Tamils last weekend, was incorrect.

However the informed sources confirmed earlier reports that six separatists were killed late on Saturday when soldiers on a training exercise stumbled into a separatist camp in Ampara District.

Four separatists were killed when they fired on the soldiers from their lookout positions, and the troops returned fire.

The other two died when the returning troops were fired on again from near a village and the soldiers replied, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the leader of the government delegation to peace talks with separatistis that broke down in Bhutan this month was expected to return here tomorrow, after talks in India with Premier Rajiv Gandhi.

(Delegation chief Harry Jayewardene today met with Indian foreign secretary Romesh Bhandari after three days of talks with ministry officials in New Delhi, officials there said. They gave no details of the talks.)

TULF sources here said that party secretary-general Appapillai Amirthalingam also had a one-hour meeting with Mr Gandhi in New Delhi yesterday. Diplomatic sources here said that the purpose of thesemeetings was to break the deadlock and get the talks on the rails again.

"India is determined to see that the negotiating process will notcollapse and this was the gist" of what Mr Gandhi said at the meetings, the sources said.

Some Tamil sources said India's decision Friday to deport three militant Tamils based in Madras, southern India, had "soured (their) relations" with New Delhi. The three men have all since left the country.

(There were no reports in India of demonstrations today in Madras against the deportations, after protests yesterday there. Thousands of Sri Lankan Tamils now live there after fleeing violence at home.

(Opposition leaders in the Indian Parliament today condemned the deportations of A.S. Balasingam and S. Chandrahasan to London and New York respectively.)

They said the deportation of political refugees was unknown in India.

V. Gopalsawmy of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), a Tamil regional party, told the upper house that, "this government has become a tool in hands of (President) Jayewardene."

The deportations could harm the chances of a negotiated settlement, he said. He also waved a bunch of photographs and said they showed the latest scenes of what he called genocide against Tamils in Sri Lanka. DMK Deputy N. Somu walked out of the lower house protesting the deportations.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali who returned here yesterday from Europe, declined to comment on the deportation orders. But informed sources said the government was pleased that New Delhi had acted against militants who were allegedly trying to scuttle the peace talks.

Swedish Defense Minister on Economic Aid, Tamils

BK241255 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 24 aug 85

[Text] The Swedish defense minister, Anders Thunborg, has said that up to date the Government of Sweden has provided Sri Lanka aid to the tune of 1.4 billion rupees. Mr Thunborg was addressing newsmen at the Hotel Lanka Oberoi in Colombo yesterday. The visiting minister also revealed that Sweden has carefully studied the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. Answering several questions raised by media personnel, he said that Sweden was fully confident that the ethnic problem may be solved amicably in a peaceful manner to the satisfaction of all concerned. The minister said that while there is a fair number of Tamils in Norway, in Sweden there are not many. He pointed out that lots of Sri Lankans are now trying to come to Sweden mainly for economic reasons. Minister Thunborg promised to continue to aid Sri Lanka primarily in the development of the industrial sector. A special delegation of top officials from Sweden was associated with him at the news conference.

Further Reportage on Friday Prayer Sermons

Majlis Speaker Claims Election 'Sabotage'

LD231656 Tehan IRNA in English 1626 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA — Majlis speaker and substitute leader of the Friday mass prayers of Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said here today that the nationwide presidential elections last Friday had been another sweeping triumph for the people and the Islamic Government mainly because it had taken place in the face of widespread sabotage by the 'Monafeqin' (outlawed Mojahedin Khalq Organization — MKO), the die-hard conservatives, and the moneyed-class.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam who was talking to a multitudinous group of worshippers at the compounds of Tehran University during his sermons at the Friday congregational prayers said that before the presidential elections were held in the country last Friday, "more than 90 percent" of elements intending to sabotage the elections had been either arrested or killed during encounters with the law enforcement forces of the Islamic Government. Excerpts:

(On presidential elections): "Almost all people who feel distaste for Islam were involved in this conspiracy (against the peaceful conduct of the presidential elections on Friday August 16th). In concurrence with their plots they prompted Iraq to attack the Iranian Khark Island....In this last maneuver the enemies of Islam brought to the scene whatever resources they had which also included foreign-trained troops, and their propaganda machinery in a bid to dismay and frustrate the masses...

"Despite all their efforts our enemies incurred some significant losses. More than 90 percent of their operation groups were either arrested or killed in the process of arrests. All their propaganda elements and their other agents commissioned to demoralise our people were identified by our law enforcement officers with the cooperation of the people....

"That more votes were cast in the previous elections was because of the peculiar social situation at the time of the previous elections conditioned by the martyrdom of several officials of the Islamic Government among them Shahid Rajai'e, Shahid Bahonar, and the situation immediately following the bomb blast at the Islamic Republic Party....

"Rarely does it happen in the United States for a presidential candidate to rake more than 60 percent of the total votes. So it is in the European countries whose governments claim to exercise utmost civil liberties and democracy...the mass participation of our people in the elections is a token of their respect for the Islamic Government and the Islamic revolution and of their firmness in the path they have chosen....

(On the government week - Aug. 24-31): "In my opinion the operations of the Islamic Government in the past few years should be rated among the most successful operations of governments in the history of statesmanship. It would be unfair to charge the government with weakness or improper policies in the face of the on-going war....

"At the time being about one-third of our revenues are earmaked for war expenditures. Despite all that, and despite the population increase, the growing expectations of the people, and the peculiar problems of the war, the services provided to the masses have been far more and superior to those provided during the past regime... During the past few years each year some 1,000 to 1,500 villages were electrified which means four or five villages each day. The living standard of the people in towns and cities and especially in villages has improved. The electrification of our villages would necessitate in its wake certain other welfare services — all of which are the commitments of the government....

(On the Thursday demonstration of Muslims in Mecca made in response to Imam Khomeyni's message): "The inspiring and criteriological message of Imam Khomeyni (to pilgrims in Mecca) has been a source of extreme delight to all of us. It is a source of pride for the Islamic Republic that despite a smaller population in commparison with other Muslim states, it sent some 150,000 pilgrims to Mecca this year despite the wartime situation....

"Despite all obstacles the Muslims on Thursday rallied through the streets of Mecca as they had rallied in Medina earlier on, and gave Islam and the Islamic revolution some prominence and put forth the idea of Islamic Republic being the centre of all revolutionary and Islamic movements.

"This ummah needs such a beloved leader who ventures to voice such impressive words aloof from all propaganda, and ballyhoos, and selfish motives, and uttered in such simple words comprehensible by all and doing so solely for the good of the masses. Today you cannot find even one other person among the ulema and at the theological schools with such a proven capability of telling the Muslim people their true troubles and reminding them of the vast potential of the Muslim world and of the weakness of the enemies of Muslims....

"The word of truth coming out from the mouth of a man of truth and uttered for the furtherance of truth will make its own impact upon the people. The veils such as we see with our eyes, and the walls and barriers such as we can see are no barrier to the spread of 'light'. We are already noticing the impact (of the Imam's words) in many Muslim nations such as Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and throughout Africa and Asia...."

Proposes Hajj Policy

GF231231 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Arabic Friday sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Tehran Friday imam ad interim and Majlis speaker, at Tehran University on 23 August — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God, and pray for the messenger of God, his scion, and for the pious worshippers of God. The pilgrimage season falls during these days. Many of the Muslims of the world have gathered in Mecca in response to the call of the Lord of the

universe and the Lord of the ancient house [of Abraham in Mecca]. The attention of many more in the Muslim world is directed toward Mecca. They follow the news of the pilgrimage with great interest. Indeed, the news of the great gathering in Mecca is discussed and noted by people several weeks after the return of the pilgrims from their journey. A little thinking and contemplation will make us realize that the merciful God of the world has put forward in his message a precise program to unify the Muslim world, raise its prestige, and improve its capabalities.

It is clear that if it is convened in an Islamic spirit, in accordance with Islamic goals, and if it is free from deviation, differences, and personal interests, then this great annual Islamic congress will be a genuine opportunity to demonstrate the unity, strength, and greatness of Islam. The Muslims participating in the great worship and political rites will be able to resolve their problems, and Muslims — thanks to the strength of Islam and to their joint efforts — will be safe from all plots of the enemies.

It is the duty of the hosts of the pilgrims to coordinate the rites of the pilgrimage with its real objectives. They must not stand in the way of realizing these objectives. Those who supervise the administration of the Mecca and Medina mosques must benefit from this ecclesiastical gathering by organizing a special program in Mecca to discuss the difficulties and shortcomings [of the Muslim world] and the potenital of the various pilgrims and Muslim countries throughout the world. Pilgrims should be given a memorandum that includes complete proposals for solving the problems of Muslims. The capabilities of all the Muslims of the world should be harnessed through the pilgrims.

Therefore, some television and radio channels and many newspapers and magazines should be placed at the disposal of pilgrims and supervised by a council of representatives of the pilgrims who would determine how these facilities can be put to use. The memorandum would state what is required of the pilgrims and of Muslims. Meetings involving the widest sectors of pilgrims would be organized in squares and places put at their disposal, for the purpose of hearing speakers and preachers.

Such proposals may be superficial and elementary, but they would complement the requirements for setting up a new consultative council [shura] of sincere Muslim thinkers, and could serve as a ground for organizing a comprehensive program. Naturally, shortcomings would be reduced with the application of these proposals.

If we had made correct use of the pilgrimage in the past, the Muslims of Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, India, Cambodia, Thailand, Russia, and Yugoslavia -- and indeed most of the Muslims of the world -- would not have been under the yoke of the world's infidels. This is evidence of the ineptitude of the leaders of the Muslim countries who have not benefited from the great divine blessing, strengthening and raising the standard of all Muslims. Indeed, they sought to foil the efforts of sincere and pious pilgrims. For example, many problems were created for Iranian pilgrims carrying out the rites — in which we take pride — over the past years. We hope the time comes when the divine goals of the pilgrimage will be achieved and we tangibly see the clear truth of God's words: "Let them witness the benefits [of the pilgrimage]." [Koranic verse] "In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. When the help of God and victory come, and you see men entering God's religion in throngs, then proclaim the praise of your Lord, and seek his forgiveness, for he turns again unto men." [Koranic verse] Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Continuing Reportage on Hajj Ceremonies in Mecca

Saudi Police Arrest Pilgrims

LD231417 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Mecca, Aug. 23, IRNA — A number of mourning Iranian pilgrims were arrested by the Saudi police at the Masjid al-Haram (the Sacred Mosque) here recently. Iranian officials are in the process of securing the release of the arrested pilgrims.

Some 600,000 Pilgrims have participated in this year's Hajj congress, 25 percent of whom are Iranians. More than 55,000 of the total 150,000 Iranian pilgrims are women.

Complaint of Inadequate Housing

LD241952 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] Mecca, Aug. 24, IRNA — Iranian officials in Saudi Arabia Saturday accused the Saudi authorities of failing to provide the necessary living accommodations for pilgrims currently on the annual hajj ritual. The head of hajj headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Turkan said that only 13,000 tents have been set up for the 150,000 Iranian hajjis. More than 55,000 of the pilgrims are women.

The camps are in 'Arafat and Mena, halfway between Medina and Mecca, where Muslims offer God a sacrificial animal and stone a tower symbolized as the satan.

Turkan said the Saudi Arabian Government is apparently unable to provide the necessary housing accommodations. He said top ranking Saudi authorities promised cooperation when contacted by the lower officials have so far failed to help.

He said that if the Saudi authorities are unable to organize the hajj, an international Muslim organization should be created to manage the vital Islamic ritual.

The number of foreign pilgrims on the hajj has dropped sharply from 1.2 million in 1983 to only 700,000 this year, a possible indication of Saudi inability to manage the hajj affair.

The camping space for the Iranian Muslims has also decreased this year with pilgrims having to live in between the tents that arenormally used as corridors.

Afghan Refugees on Special Flights

GF230656 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, as a result of the efforts of officials from the Foreign and Interior Ministries of the Islamic Republic of Iran and following the removal of

obstacles blocking their departure, some 1,000 Afghan refugees left Tehran to take part in the hajj in Saudi Arabia on board three aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In an interview on the subject, an official of the Foreign Ministry said: The Interior Ministry informed the Government of Saudi Arabia, through the Foreign Ministry, about a month and a half ago that the Islamic Republic of Iran intended to send 1,000 Afghan refugees on pilgrimage. The Saudi Government, despite a previous agreement, declared that it was unable to accept them -- 3 days before the Jeddah Airport was due to close and just as the Afghan pilgrims had arrived in Tehran from all over the country in order to leave for the pilgrimage.

Following efforts by officials of the Foreign and Interior Ministries and following a complaint lodged by the Islamic Republic and the Afghan pilgrims with the Saudi charge d'affaires, Saudi Arabian officials agreed to allow three flights carrying the Afghan pilgrims. The flights left today.

Karrubi Meets Lebanese Hizballah

LD242011 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] A group of Lebanese Hizballah brothers this morning met Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, the imam's representative and the supervisor of Iranian pilgrims at the imam's headquarters in Mecca. At this meeting one of the Lebanese clergymen elaborated on the struggles of Lebanese Muslims.

In a speech Mr Karrubi referred to the Lebanese people's struggle and courage and said: You should note that the enemy, having suffered repeated defeats in face-to-face confrontations, is trying to create discord among the ranks of the brave people of Lebanon, especially Muslims, in order to weaken their united force. Therefore, we should be alert and avoid division. As long as the people of Lebanon are united and as long as they stick together, the aggressive enemy would not be able to achieve anything.

Paper on Number of Pilgrims

GF250939 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Aug 85

[From the Press Review]

[Text] The newspaper *KEYHAN AL-'ARABI* published an article [today] in its opinion column titled "Limiting Pilgrimage — In Whose Interest?" The article says: The statistics accredited by Saudi newspapers on the number of pilgrims this season indicate the number does not exceed 700,000 pilgrims [figure as heard].

A comparison between this figure and nearly 1 million pilgrims last year gives rise to more than one question and causes wonder. The decrease in the number of pilgrims must necessarily constitute an important contrast in the whole history of the pilgrimage. We rule out as a reason for this the social and economic circumstances of the countries which have kept the door open for participation by a much greater number of people.

This matter must not be interpreted without reference to various important issues which Saudi Arabia stressed in its rejection of the political dimension of the pilgrimage. One must also look on this significant decrease in the number of pilgrims in light of the anxiety which the Islamic governments -- or those governments that have a certain percentage of Muslims among their populations -- do not conceal with regard to the wave of Islamic awakening now spreading over the world. Experts and strategists consider this awakening a phenomenon that could not have been avoided following the confirmation of the possibility of the establishment and persistence of a true Islamic government. The authenticity of this government is proved by its resistance to the various challenges and problems besetting our present world.

As Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani hinted in his latest Friday sermon, we cannot possibly stand by idly in the face of this serious situation, which might continue and increase in future hajj seasons. It must be met by a strong response from all free Muslims in proportion to the amount of coordination and efforts made by the circles of international apostasy and hypocrisy to besiege and restrict the opportunity to exploit the hajj seasons in their vivid and divine forms, to end the stagnation imposed on the awakening of the Islamic peoples, and to urge them to shoulder their full responsibilities in liberating themselves from all forms of bondage, backwardness, and exploitation.

Free Voice of Iran: Khomeyni Health Deteriorating

GF241916 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] Once again, the health of that ancient (?thief) and ayatollah at Jamaran has deteriorated. A report received by the Free Voice of Iran indicates that over the past 2 days Khomeyni's health has reached a dangerous stage and that he is receiving emergency medical care.

Although Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni is an anti-Iranian cleric and is responsible for the ruination of Iran and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iranians, we do not want him to die. We would prefer that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni remain alive and healthy so that he may stand accused in a future trial before the court of the nation.

The Free Voice of Iran is not broadcasting this news of Khomeyni's illness to foretell of his near death. It is just a report on the acuteness, once more, of his disease. According to a special report by persons close to Khomeyni in Jamaran, Khomeyni's health over the past 2 days has deteriorated and at times has been very critical. The attending physicians wanted to move Khomeyni to a hospital equipped with every medical device, but he refused. As you are aware, there is a hospital under construction in Jamaran which will be equipped to deal with every medical contingency. However, it is still not ready to receive Khomeyni.

In recent audiences, Khomeyni has not talked to anyone for more than 7 to 8 minutes. His words are being read by radio and television announcers.

Khamane'i Receives Chief of Joint Staff

LD242009 Tehran IRNA in English 1719 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i received chief of the Joint Staff Command, Colonel Esma'il Sohrabi, here Saturday. At the meeting Colonel Sohrabi briefed the president on the current affairs of Iran's armed forces.

Iraqi Student's Union Congratulates Khamene'i

GF251618 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] The Iraqi Students' Union congratulated 'Ali Khamene'i on his reelection as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The cable that was sent by the union on this occasion stated that the election of Mr Khamene'i for a second presidential term is proof of the Iranian people's trust in Mr Khamene'i and of his capability and high position during the past presidential term.

The Iraqi Student's Union also sent a congratulatory cable to Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, on the occasion of government week. In it the union hailed the anniversary of martyrdom of the two brave sons of Islam Rajai'e and Bahonar and denounced the conspiracies of international arrogance and its plots against the Islamic revolution. The cable affirmed: We, the Iraqi students, put all our capabilities and means at the disposal of the government of the oppressed in the Islamic Republic of Iran to serve the oppressed.

Envoy to Libya Meets With President 22 Aug

LD231419 Tehran IRNA in English 1401 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA — Iran's ambassador to Libya, Hoj. Mohammad Kazem Khonsari met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Thursday. Expansion of the Islamic Republic's relations with Libya was stressed after Khonsari briefed the president on developments in the country of his assignment.

Earlier in the day, Khonsari had a meeting with Iran's Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani during which he gave a report on the speaker's recent visit to Libya.

Velayati Leaves for Tripartite Meeting in Syria

LD231554 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran Aug. 23 IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for Damascus Friday to take part in Iran-Libya-Syria tripartite meeting to start in the Syrian capital on Saturday.

The meeting also aims at coordinating the three countries' foreign policies vis-a-vis the regional issues as well as the text non-aligned foreign ministers' meeting in Angola.

In a short interview before departure, Velayati pointing to the particular significance of the forthcoming NAM [Nonaligned Ministers] meeting in Angola, stated that "we hold particular views vis-a-vis Third World issues which we would like to bring up at the next meeting of the non-aligned foreign ministers. Therefore, we should become aware of the viewpoints of Syria and Libya regarding these issues so that the stands of the three Muslim countries would be coordinated."

Velayati is being accompanied by Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) as well as a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Ties Discussed

LD240453 Tehran IRNA in English 0445 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] Damascus, Aug. 24, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Friday that his visit to Syria was aimed at exchanging views with Syrian officials on bilateral ties as well as situation in the region. He stressed that constant contacts between officials of the two countries will further strengthen mutual relations.

Velayati said that he will hold talks with his Syrian counterpart and a number of other Syrian officials on matters of mutual interest.

The Iranian foreign minister, accompanied by Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps Mohsen Rafiqdust and a number of other officials, arrived here Friday night.

Tripartite Talks Open

LD241755 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 24 Aug 85

["First Round Tripartite Talks Open in Damascus" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Damascus, Aug 24, IRNA — The first round of talks between the foreign ministers of Syria, Libya and Iran started here Saturday.

Dr Velayati from Iran, Faruq al-Shar' from Syria and 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki from Libya attended the meeting in which they discussed issues relevant to current developments in the region as well as to the forthcoming session of foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement meet in Luanda, Angola.

The relations of Syria, Libya and Iran were also discussed at the meeting where some officials of the foreign ministries of the three countries were also present.

The first tripartite meeting involving Iran, Syria and Libya was held in Tehran last February following President Khamene'i's visits to Syria and Libya.

The Iranian Majlis speaker, Hoj. Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani also paid official visits to Damascus and Tripoli during the middle of June, in an effort to further the ties among the three countries.

Aid for Palestinians, Lebanese

LD250640 Tehran IRNA in English 0635 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Damascus, Aug. 25, IRNA — The first round of talks of Iran-Libya-Syria tripartite political and military session was held here Saturday with the participation of foreign ministers of the three countries. During the five-hour talks, regional issues, especially situation in Lebanon and Palestine, as well as the Iraqi-imposed war and developments in North Africa were discussed.

Meanwhile, Iran's Minister of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Mohsen Rafiqdust who also took part in the talks, outlined recent victories achieved by the Iranian forces in war fronts. The three countries also approved assistance for the Lebanese and Palestinian Muslim combatants in their fight against the Zionist regime.

The forthcoming session of the Non-Aligned Movement due to be held in Luanda, cooperation of the three countries in this respect, as well as campaign against racist regimes in the occupied Palestine and in South Africa were other topics of the discussions at the meeting. The second round of talks will be held Sunday.

Velayati Meets With Syrian President

LD251323 Tehran IRNA in English 1318 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Damascus, Aug. 25, IRNA — Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed ties between the two countries and other issues of mutual interest when they met here Sunday. Velayati is in the Syrian capital for tripartite talks with his counterparts from Syria and Libya.

The tripartite talks on regional and international issues started Saturday and a communique is to be published later Sunday.

Tehran Praises Alliance

LD241254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1050 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Our country's foreign minister, leading a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, left for the country of our friend and brother, Syria, yesterday afternoon. The aim behind this trip is to take part in the tripartite session between Iran, Libya, and Syria and also to coordinate the three countries' foreign policies vis-a-vis the problems of the region and the future session of the foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement.

Just as Dr Velayati, in a short interview prior to his departure for Damascus, declared, the course of the coordinated efforts of the three progressive Muslim countries in the region, begun a year ago following the trip by Mr Khamene'i, the president, and later underlined with the visit by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, it is essential that progressive Muslim countries should establish contacts at the appropriate times. The continuation of such contacts, while being important for each of these countries, has considerable effect in connection with regional and international problems. The three countries of Iran, Libya, and Syria already hold similar views on diverse issues, such as the acts of aggression perpetrated by the Zionist regime, the collusion of Arab reactionaries and U.S. imperialism, and also the problem of the war imposed by the Saddam regime on the Islamic Republic of Iran and U.S. threats against Libya.

During their two previous sessions in Damascus and Tehran, the three countries decided to fight U.S. imperialism's policies with regard to the Palestinian resistance and to confront stringently such policies as the liquidation, destruction, or changing the identity of Palestinian resistance. The three countries constitute an organized front which is sharply confronting U.S. policies aimed at establishing a united reactionary front.

One of the positive results of this joint movement is the defeat of the recent meeting of Arab leaders in Casablanca, Morocco. During the extraordinary session of Arab leaders in Casablanca the hope nurtured by the White House and by Arab reactionaries was that the accord reached by King Husayn and 'Arafat would be approved by the leaders. However, the moment the session was boycotted by Syria and some other Arab countries it became a fiasco.

Another issue supported by the three countries of Iran, Libya, and Syria is the reactivation of the Confrontation Front and the latter's attention to its sacred mission. This issue was raised during the previous joint session in Damascus and won the support of the three countries. The three countries of Iran, Libya, and Syria hol joint views with regard to the Saddam regime's war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran and call for the overthrow of the Saddam regime. The three countries believe that Iraq's Ba'thist Zionist regime, on behalf of U.S. imperialism and of the Zionist regime, was responsible for starting the attacks on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The support given by the United States and the Zionist regime to that regime is obvious.

Strengthening the liberation struggles of the Palestinians, fighting U.S. plots against the Lebanese people and Lebanon's independence, confronting the plots hatched against the two friendly and brotherly countries, Syria and Libya, by the United States or by the Zionist regime and Arab reaction are among the points agreed on by the three countries.

In January 1983, when the three countries' first joint session was held in Damascus, a 13-point declaration was issued containing positive points with regard to regional and international problems, and Radio Israel, reacting to the same and expressing hope for the victory of the Camp David course, said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to wage a fight to revive anti-Zionist resistance in the Arab world are futile. Britain's government radio also warned the United States that should the anti-Zionist spirit be revived in the Near East all Western plans would be useless. The agreement between the three countries of Iran, Libya, and Syria on various regional and international problems is proof that the beacon of steadfastness and confrontation in the face of the course of collusion in the Arab world has not yet been extinguished and the Muslim Arab nation, at the invitation of

Islamic Iran, has given a positive response to the fateful and historic struggle against world Zionism.

Today this tripartite accord, with its daily-increasing strength, has been turned into one of the important axes in regional and international equations.

TEHRAN TIMES on Talks

LD251515 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 25, IRNA — The English daily *TEHRAN TIMES* said Sunday that the objectives of the ongoing talks between the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and Libya in Damascus were to coordinate policies on regional issues as well as the upcoming meeting of the non-aligned foreign ministers, in Luanda, Angola.

'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, left Tehran Friday for Damascus where he is holding talks with his Syrian and Libyan counterparts in their second annual meeting.

The *TEHRAN TIMES*, commenting on the gathering said in its editorial, that the three revolutionary countries have common stances on Israel, Arab reactionaries, U.S. imperialism, and the imposed Iraqi war. It said "the three countries form a common front which staunchly opposes U.S. efforts to create a single reactionary front in the Middle East".

One of the positive achievements of their joint efforts has been the defeat of the Arab summit sponsored formula for negotiation with Israel, at its recently concluded Casablanca meet in Morocco.

The daily said that all three countries demand the downfall of the Iraqi regime, because they believe that Saddam's regime, aided by the U.S. and Zionists commenced aggression against the Islamic Republic, it said.

"Today this strong and solidified tripartite alliance is one of the most important factors in the regional and international political equations," said the daily.

Further Reportage on Visit of Lebanese Officials

Montazeri on Future Government

LD231159 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Subhi al-Tufayli and Abu Hisham, together with a number of other Lebanese Hizballah officials, met and had talks with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday. During the meeting, also attended by Mr Mohteshami, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Syria, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri described the secret of the success of the Islamic Revolution as lying in its popularity and reminded that Lebanon's Hizballah, divorced from any group or sectarian pattern and form, should also continue its struggle toward popularity so that the decisive majority of Lebanese Muslims would become their supporters.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri graciously emphasized: In Lebanon's future Islamic Government the rights of all religious and sectarian minorities should be respected and everyone, from any sect or faith, should enjoy his lawful and religious rights. However, the election of the type of government in Lebanon will rest with the Muslim majority in that country.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri then graciously noted Lebanon's future government's need for committed persons, learned clergymen and capable administrators who would be able to wield the country's publicity and judicial business and graciously stated: You should be pondering this important responsibility right now.

According to this report, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, speaking in connection with Lebanon's future Islamic government's need for specialized forces endowed with expertise, graciously said: By setting up religious seminaries and scientific and educational forums comprising religious young people, whether Shi'ites or Sunnites, Lebanese or Palestinians, we should be thinking of securing future cadres right now.

He also graciously said: One should separate the course of the compromises made by certain Palestinian leaders from the Muslim Palestinian people and Lebanese Muslim brothers and sisters should separate the cause of the refugee and deprived Palestinian people from the compromises of their leaders.

Press Statement Issued

GF240844 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1828 GMT 23 Aug 85

["Text" of press statement read by member of the Lebanese Hizballah delegation during press conference held in Tehran 21 August at Esteqlal Hotel — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brothers and friends. Peace be on you and the mercy and blessings of God.

It gives us pleasure and pride to make this blessed visit to the Islamic Republic at the formal invitation of the Iranian officials in order to affirm the cohesiveness of the masses of our Muslim, struggling people in Lebanon with the masses of the Muslim, struggling people in Iran, under the aegis of the leadership of the Allah-guided imam of the nation, Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, may he live long.

We take this happy opportunity to thank the leadership, officials, and masses of this triumphant revolution for the generous welcome they have given us and the pride they take in the struggle of our people against the Zionist occupation of our country, and against the forces of international arrogance, foremost of which is the United States.

We express our great satisfaction with the results of the visit which dealt with almost all issues likely to deepen the ties between the Iranian revolution and the Muslims in Lebanon, and which will also support and bolster the steadfastness of our people and brothers in the battle of fateful confrontation which they are

fighting against the United States and Israel. We cannot but bow in reverence to the blood of the martyrs of Islam who — by their heroic sacrifices — have achieved great victories, both in expelling the Zionist occupation and in foiling the plan of Phalangist hegemony over the Muslims in Lebanon and directing a slap at the forces of multinational invasion [as heard], foremost among which were the U.S. forces.

Dear friends, our Muslim people in Lebanon have passed through one of the most important phases of the battle for existence against the United States and usurping Israel. With the aid of God, and by the struggle of the Islamic resistance fighters, who have achieved with the blood of their martyrs what the Arab regimes failed to do over more than 25 years of struggle against the entity which usurps the land of Palestine, our people have proved that the Muslims are able, by relying on God, to destroy the myth of the invincible army.

We would like to affirm here that the Islamic resistance which rose amid pan-Arab [qawmi] and national feebleness, and which initiated daily and escalating struggle operations, has brought into being a state of general struggle among our people in Lebanon. It receives credit for mobilizing all energies for the sake of crushing the enemy and inflicting a historic defeat him on him. However, some forces are attempting today — after the Muslims have achieved victories — to bring back to the forefront national and pan-Arab conflicts with the support of external forces. At the same time, the agent Phalangists are attempting to enter into a formula for dialogue on the future of the political system in Lebanon with the nationalist forces. This comes after they have played the leading role in creating the appropriate climate for occupation and paving the way for Israeli control of the country's destiny, and after signing the accord of humiliation on 17 May [1983] and opening wide Lebanon's doors to U.S. and European influence.

We have announced on several occasions that Hizballah is opposed to any dialogue with the criminal Phalangists, the agents of the United States and Israel. We have rejected the resolutions adopted at Geneva and Lausanne. We will oppose all resolutions stemming from any meeting with these agents.

Some time ago, the national parties launched their draft program for Lebanon within the framework of what was called the National Union Front. We expressed our opposition to this program in accordance with the following points:

1. Since the platform tried to confiscate the struggle of the followers of the Islamic line against usurper Israel, and claimed that its friends were the sides that resisted the invasion of the multinational force, knowing that the followers of the Islamic line were the only side to do so. We emphasize that they were the side who first fought against Israel. After a long time the others followed suit. They were the only side that resisted the multinational forces, while the nationalists denounced this resistance immediately.

2. Those who drafted the platform did not elaborate on whether it was intended to reach a solution or whether it was designed to form a dialogue with the Phalangists. In both cases the platform was rejected because we do not believe in dialogue with the agents of Israel. We also do not believe that any solution will succeed until the alien influence and the Israeli occupation are removed. Moreover, in many points this very national program contravenes the spirit of Islam. It is inspired from secular views. From this premise, we believe that the solution to the crisis in Lebanon can be seriously inplemented when the Muslim masses succeed in getting rid of the alien influence, the occupation, and the Israeli interference. Without these conditions, no draft plan will be successful nor will it survive. What you heard about the resumption of the fighting, shelling, and annihilation in Beirut yesterday and the day before yesterday is compelling evidence of the failure of any solution in light of the Israeli and alien penetration of the Lebanese arena.

Brothers, our struggle in Lebanon against the powers of the international arrogance, against Israel, and against their agencies requires Muslims to make their unity profound and promote cohesion with the powers opposed to international arrogance, foremost of which is the Islamic revolution in Iran.

We have made big strides in this field. However, what happened in the way of regrettable bloodshed in what is called the war of camps, and also before this bloodshed, constitute attempts aimed at striking against the unity of Muslims. We repeat that we denounce the treasonous trend of Yasir 'Arafat and the trends of reactionary regimes such as those of Saddam, Mubarak, and King Husayn, represented in capitulation to the United States and Israel. At the same time, we urge the continuation of jihad by Muslims and the Muslim Palestinian people, especially in the occupied territories against the Zionist usupers. We denounce any attempt aimed at dividing the unity of the Muslim ranks in Lebanon and elsewhere.

Dear people, after the cherished victory that God blessed us with, thanks to the blood shed by Muslim martyrs, we thought these reactionary regimes would be ashamed of themselves and at least lessen their conspiracies against their people and us. However, we were surprised with the big expulsion campaign begun by Kuwait against our Lebanese people residing there. The Arab submission summit was convened in Casablanca to consolidate aggression against the Islamic revolution and support for Saddam in his U.S. war, which he had imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran has not spared any effort to support Islamic resistance against Zionist occupation of Lebanon.

Richard Murphy quickly came to the Palestine region to reap the harvest of this reactionary summit. However, our Muslim peoples are waiting for opportunities to turn the tables against the conspirators. A proof of this is the killing of the Zionist diplomat in Cairo. Muslims cannot submit to the decisions of their reactionary regimes.

Finally, we renew our thanks to an support for the blessed Islamic revolution. We stress adherence to the trend of the leader imam and his directions and instructions. We urge all Muslims that they must turn to this blessed leadership in order to reach the haven of freedom, independence, and Islam. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Wednesday, 21 August 1985

Delegation Concludes 'Fruitful' Visit

LD250818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] According to our reporter, the Lebanese Hizballah delegation, after a week's sojourn in Iran and meetings with personalities and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, left Tehran this morning after being seen off formally by Sheykh ol-Eslam, the political deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, a member of the leadership council of the Lebanese Hizballah, viewed his meetings with the officials of the Islamic Republic as very fruitful and stated: We discussed the problems and difficulties of the Muslims in Lebanon with Iranian officials and asked them for their cooperation and assistance, and thanks be to God, the meetings were very positive. We are confident that these meetings will have a beneficial effect on the region and on the advancement of the movement of the Muslims in Lebanon. Our visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran will also have a positive impact on strengthening the morale of the Muslim mujahidin of Lebanon in their confrontation with world arrogence and Israeli mercenaries.

Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, in conclusion, while expressing thanks to the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their attention and efforts toward the affairs of the Muslims in Lebanon, prayed for the health and longevity of Khomeyni.

Besharati Meets With Australian Foreign Minister

LD241128 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — The Australian foreign minister, William Hayden, Friday met and conferred with Iran's deputy foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati who is currently in Australia at the head of a delegation.

During the meeting Besharati outlined Iran's important economic and political stance as well as its foreign policy to the Australian official. He said that Iran is seeking to expand relations with all countries in the world except for a few ones. Therefore, he added, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not remain indifferent towards various developments in the world.

Referring to the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran, Besharati said that at the beginning of the war, the United Nations and other international organisations remained silent vis-a-vis Iraqi aggressions.

If the Muslim people of Iran had not devotedly resisted the Iraqi violations, today there would have been no trace of Iran. Therefore, he stressed, the downfall of the present Iraqi regime is a legitimate right of the Iranians since it intended to destroy the newly-born Islamic Republic of Iran.

On relations between Iran and Australia, the Iranian official said that there should be a direct link between the expansion of bilateral economic ties and mutual political relations. To this end, Besharati noted, economic exchanges between the two countries can enjoy a remarkable expansion when the Australian Government responds to the priorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In reply, the Australian foreign minister expressed satisfaction over the expansion of bilateral ties especially in the field of economy. He hoped that talks to be held with the Iranian delegation will lead to the further expansion of mutual relations in various grounds.

Concludes Tour

GF260701 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Aug 85

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Besharati returned to Tehran yesterday after leading a delegation from the Islamic Republic to the DPRK, New Zealand, and Australia. During this tour, Besharati met with DPRK President Kim Il-song. The two sides asserted the need to have the two countries form a joint front against U.S. imperialism. During his meetings in DPRK, New Zealand, and Australia, Besharati explained the strategic, political, and economic positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He emphasized the need to develop relations between Islamic Iran and these countries.

During his meeting with the New Zealand prime minister, he praised the correct position of the New Zealand Government in denouncing the apartheid policy of the regime in South Africa and its refusal to allow U.S. vessels carrying nuclear warheads to visit New Zealand ports.

Foreign Ministry Official Meets Indonesian Minister

LD241232 Tehran IRNA in English 1114 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24 IRNA — Expansion of mutual relations between Iran and Indonesia and the forthcoming session of the non-aligned foreign ministers were discussed by the director general of the Asia-Oceania Department of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, 'Ali Ahani and the Indonesian foreign minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja Friday.

During the meeting, the Iranian official submitted a message from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Kusumaatmaja on the nonaligned meet.

The Indonesian minister expressed satisfaction over receiving the letter and welcomed further expansion of relations between the two countries. He also stressed on the exchange of various delegations between the two countries.

Arrives in Malaysia

LD241835 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry political director general for Asian and Oceanian affairs, 'Ali Ahani arrived in Kuala Lumpur Saturday. The expansion of bilateral relations and cooperation are to be discussed in Ahani's talks with Malaysian officials.

Ahani is touring a number of South-east Asian countries to deliver a message from the Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati to officials of these states on the coming session of the

non-aligned movement's foreign ministers which is to be held in Luanda, Angola.

Prime Minister Addresses 25 Aug Cabinet Session

LD252025 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA — Iran's cabinet ministers met here Sunday where they discussed current economic and political developments of the country and the region.

Referring to Thursday's massive demonstration by Muslim pilgrims in holy Mecca, Prime Minister Musavi said that the demonstration indicates the greatness of the Iranian Muslim nation. He added that it will play a key role in neutralizing plots and false propaganda hatched against the Islamic Republic by the arrogant powers to ruin our image.

"The effects of their one year effort of political propaganda, mis-information against the Islamic Republic was foiled in a single day by the united move of 150,000 Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims. That is why the arrogant forces fear hajj demonstrations so much." added Musavi.

Nabavi Cites Advances in Mail, Telephone Services

LD250533 Tehran IRNA in English 0528 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA — The number of rural post agencies has increased from 867 during pre-revolution era to 2,025 as of the end of Iranian year 1363 (March 21, 1984). This was announced by the Iranian Minister of Posts, Telegraph and Telephones Morteza Nabavi here Saturday.

Nabavi who was speaking on a radio broadcast program on the occasion of the 'Government Week' (Aug. 23-20) added that during the same period the number of urban post booths had increased to 207 from the previous 45 booths and that the number of urban post offices now stand 225 from the pre-revolution's 160 offices.

Nabavi further said that some 1,718 villages were provided with telephone facilities during the period while the figure was 312 before the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979. The number of cities equipped with automatic telephones had increased by 200 and international channels to 702 from the previous 429 channels. The computer telex numbers had an increase of [number indistinct] sets per year compared to the pre-revolution's figures.

Nabavi announced that the Ministry has recently been able to manufacture the public telephone sets inside the country and as a result the number of telephone booths installed will considerably increase throughout the cities.

Nabavi expressed the setting up of express post centers in major cities as another achievement of the P.T.T. Ministry saying that with the establishment of such centers, a letter posted before noon will reach its destination the very day through the intra-city channel and in less than 24 hours through the inter-city channel.

With the efforts made by the staff of the post centers the required time for a letter to be despatched has been reduced from the average 126 hours in 1980 to 60 hours. "With the exploitation of Tehran's mechanized post center it will even fall to 24 hours."

Minister Gives Figures on Electricity Consumption

LD250521 Tehran IRNA in English 0516 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 25, IRNA — Iran's minister of energy announced here Saturday that the total production of electricity in the country during years 1981-1984 increased from 22 billion kilowatt to 34 billion kilowatt which shows an increase of 15 percent. He added that an average of 1700 villages in the country were given electricity per year during the past four years.

Dr Ghafuri-Fard who was speaking on a radio program on the second day of the 'Government Week' said that the maximum load of the country's electricity network now stands at 6,333 megawatt which showed a 50 percent increase within the said period.

He added that the number of electricity subscribers since the victory of the Islamic revolution have increased from 4,988,000 to 6,700,000 and the number of villages provided electricity facilities climbed from 4,000 to 16,531. The length of high pressure cables laid or erected for transferring electricity registered a 107 percent rise, the energy minister noted.

All these services have been undertaken by Iranian experts when numerous network in western and southern provinces of the country were damaged by the Iraqi forces and also economic sanctions were imposed on Iran, and when all the foreign contractors refused to complete their projects here, the minister of energy said.

Employee Shares in Nationalized Industries

LD241628 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — Two top ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran Saturday said that the managers of nationalized industries ought to consider the sale of shares of the industries to their workers.

Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi who proposed the idea were addressing the inauguration session of a three-day seminar of the managers of nationalized industries in Tehran. Hundreds of managers from various parts of the country have gathered in the capital to attend the conference that started Saturday.

Chief Justice Ardabili said that the quality and the quantity of the good produced in nationalized industries would improve if workers were given a share in the factories. He called on the government to facilitate the possible sale of shares to workers.

The proposal for sale of the shares of factories currently under the care of the Organization of Nationalized Industries (ONI) has been a topic of official discussions in recent months but the Majlis has not yet passed a law in this regard.

The ONI was formed after the 1979 Islamic revolution when hundreds of factory owners fled the country and the revolutionary government took over the properties estimated to have been valued at billions of dollars. The ONI holds a conference for its managers in the capital ever year.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi who also addressed the meeting said that the conference was an appropriate place to study the sale proposals.

Earlier in the meeting the managing director of ONI, Mr. Maher, said that his organization was facing problems because the legal status of its managers were not clear. He said that laws concerning ownership rights ought to become clear for ONI to operate.

Maher who is also a deputy minister of industries said that ONI had 50 plans, with an estimated value of rials 80 billion (about dollars 800 million), for the expansion comes from ONI's internal budget and not from government subsidy, Maher said.

Continuing Reportage on Kurd Operations in Iraq

Operations in Maydan Region

LD231433 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov. Aug. 23, IRNA — Iraqi Muslim Kurds destroyed two military trucks carrying ammunition in Maydan region in Sulaymaniyeh Province Tuesday. The Kurds also managed to kill five occupants of the destroyed trucks, reliable sources announced here.

On Aug. 10 the Iraqi Kurds attacked the "Atrush" military fort and checking post in Atrush District. During the 3-hour battle heavy casualties were inflicted on Ba'thist troops and one of their vehicles was destroyed with its passengers killed.

In another operation the Muslim Kurds killed three Iraqi security agents in Halabjah recently.

Mine Planted, 30 Killed

LD240910 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — Thirty Iraqis were killed and five others wounded on Friday when a mine installed by the Sulaymaniyeh branch of the Iraqi Kurdish Muslim peshmerga was exploded on the way of Iraqi forces in Khurmal region of Iraq.

The headquarters of the peshmerga, announcing this added that there were several ranking officers and NCO's among those killed.

Villages Destroyed

LD241832 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Aug. 24 — Seven villages in Shahrzur region in Iraq's Kurdistan were levelled by Ba'thist troops recently. This was announced Saturday by the Office for Organizing Kurdish Theologians based in the great Islamic center of Sanandaj.

Ba'thist troops also killed three Muslims and arrested 80 youths in Sulaymaniyah, in Kurdestan Prov. on Aug. 16.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Tehran Denies Khark Island Attack

GF260501 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Aug 85

[Text] A spokesman for the war publicity headquarters, referring to the Iraqi claim concerning an attack against Khark Island, said: This claim has a large propaganda aspect. By making such claims the Iraqi regime is trying to erase the memory of its repeated defeats at the fronts from public minds.

He added: The aircraft of the Zionist regime of Iraq, in carrying out this mission, infiltrated Persian Gulf waters and dropped a few bombs in the waters around Khark Island. Immediately afterwards, they began extensive propaganda concerning their attack against Khark Island. The warriors of Islam are prepared to defend the waters of the Persian Gulf and will answer the desperate efforts of the enemy at an appropriate time.

Communique No 2,206

LD231619 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran Aug. 23 IRNA — A military communique published here Friday said that over 160 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded as heavy Iranian fire pounded enemy positions in northern operation regions on Thursday. It also said that 30 enemy bunkers and a vehicles station as well as a munitions depot of the aggressor forces were set ablaze by the fire of the Islamic combatants in these fronts.

Communique No. 2206 issued by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces further said that in the central battlefronts, sporadic exchange of fire continued between the two sides being more intense in Nowsud, Pol-e Zahab and Mehran regions.

An infiltration attempt by enemy patrols was foiled near Nahr-Anbar region at 02:30 a.m. Thursday (23:00 hours GMT Wednesday), the communique said.

Some casualties and losses were inflicted on enemy forces in the Kushk region of the southern fronts, it said. On the Arvand River banks, enemy engineering activities were disturbed and a number of their bunkers, one loader and three munitions depots were set ablaze and destroyed, concluded the communique.

Communique No 2,207

LD241611 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 24 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 24, IRNA — Heavy artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants killed and wounded more than 37 Iraqi

troops in central fronts during the past 24 hours, the Joint Staff Command reported here Saturday in its Communique Number 2207. The Iranian Muslim fighters' fire also destroyed 17 bunkers and munitions depots of Iraqi forces and wrecked a number of their vehicles in these fronts, the communique said.

It added that in northern fronts enemy movements were checked and effective Iranian fire on their positions silenced Iraqi fire, forcing 30 Iraqi vehicles to flee, preventing them from ferrying Iraqi forces to and from the region. Meanwhile, three intruding Iraqi war planes were forced to flee before carrying out their mission when they met the heavy fire of Iran's anti-aircraft units in the operational regions, the command said.

It added that the Muslim combatants' artillery fire pounded Iraqi forces' positions in the southern fronts, inflicting substantial casualties and damage on them and also forcing some Iraqi patrols to flee as they were attempting to approach the Iranian fighters' positions in Yebis region.

At least 20 Iraqi troops were killed and 14 enemy bunkers were destroyed in the region of the Arvand River where Iraqi positions were subjected to the artillery fire of Iran's Gendarmerie forces who also reduced the Iraqi enemy' combat and engineering activities, the communique said.

The cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province were the targets of Iraq's sporadic artillery fire in the past 24 hours, damaging a house in Abadan. Also two cases of fire were reported in Khorramshahr, the communique concluded.

'Infiltrating Operations' Launched

LD251045 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Early this morning, Islamic combatants launched a series of infiltrating operations and advanced 7 km inside Iraq on Qasr-e Shirin-Khosravi front; they smashed the enemy's positions and fortifications and routed an Iraqi battalion, part of that country's 28th Armored Division. The enemy's casualties are report to be 200 killed or wounded.

'Ya Mohammad' Operation

LD251145 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1032 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] The reporter of the Central News Unit reports from Bakhtaran on the infiltration operations of the combatants of Islam into Iraqi territory which took place in the early hours of this morning:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O resistant and martyr-nurturing ummah of Iran! In the course of an infiltration operation which, with the code name of "Ya Mohammad" were carried out in the early hours of this morning with the aim of destroying the forces and smashing the fortifications of the Zionist enemy, in the 293 Heights known as the (?Iraqi) pump house, Height 294 known as Khosravi, and Heights 343 and 330 known as the village of Sar-e (?Sadat), the combatant warriors of the liberation armed forces of Islam, in the course of a 3-hour battle, by crossing barbed wires and numerous obstacles, and canals and by neutralizing booby traps and tripled-row planted minefields of the enemy, attacked the entrenchments of the aggressor Iraqis and in the course of the very first hour of the attack, after cutting off the communication bridge of the advanced lines of the enemy's troops from the rear lines, destroyed more than 30 individual and group bunkers of the enemy employing hand grenades, RPG-7s, and other heavy weaponry.

The despatched correspondent of the Central News Unit from Bakhtaran who witnessed the battle of the brave combatants of Islam, adds in his report: When the infantry forces gained access to predetermined goals in different axis, the mighty fire of the artillery of the army of Islam, brought under its intense fire the support units and other troops and also the tank, mortar and heavy machine-gun emplacements of the enemy in such a way that our infantry troops backed by the fire of artillery, katyusha, mortar-launcher and direct bullet fire of the tanks, were able to deliver another deadly blow on the aggressor and disintegrating body of the Armed Forces of Iraq.

The same report states: As a result of the heavy fire of the combatants of islam behind the advance line of the enemy, a 120-mm machine-gun of the enemy situated on the banks of the river of the (?Saqaf) village, several ammunition depots, two tanks and a large number of the positions behind the advance line of the enemy, were destroyed and altogether, more than 200 troops of the aggressor Saddamists were killed and or wounded and the mighty combatants of Islam after carrying out this assignment, returned safely and proudly to their bases.

This same report states: The destruction of the equipment of the enemy in the region was so intense that 5 hours after the operation, at a time when the sky had brightened up completely, the smoke from the burned out equipments and weaponry of the enemy could be seen very clearly and the traffic of ambulances of the enemy which moved continuously towards Khanaqin support this point that the enemy suffered heavy losses. It should be noted that this is the third deadly blow that the Zionist Iraqi enemy, has sustained during the past 10 days, in the region. On 24 of Mordad [15 August] the combatants of Islam, on the Qasr-e Shirin front, by downing three enemy helicopters and killing a group of the high-ranking commanders of the Armed Forces of Iraq, delivered a deadly blow on the Saddamist mercenaries.

Communique No 2,208

LD251658 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 25, IRNA — Over 14 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded during exchange of fire with Iranian Muslim fighters whose artillery fire also destroyed eight bunkers, six observation posts and a munitions depot of Iraqi troops in the central fronts over the past 24 hours, the Joint Staff Command reported here Sunday in its Communique Number 2208.

It added that Iraqi patrol units were subjected to the Iranian heavy artillery fire in Sumar and Qasr-e-Shirin in Bakhtaran

Province, as they were trying to infiltrate Iranian fighters' positions.

The exchange of artillery fire continued in the northern fronts over the past 24 hours during which the fire of Iraqi forces was in Hoseyniyeh and the north of Faqqeh depots of the Iraqi personnel were destroyed as well, the command said.

It added that artillery and mortar shells were traded in southern fronts being more intense in Hoseyniyeh and the north of Faqqeh where enemy supply efforts were halted and a command outpost was wrecked.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces opened heavy fire on the Iraqi troops' positions across the Arvand River, killing or wounding a number of them and also destroying several bunkers of the Ba'thist troops, the communique concluded.

Further Details

LD251829 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya base, headquarters of the Joint Operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the selfless warriors of the Army of Islam, launched a successful infiltrating operation in the region facing Qasr-e Shirin inside Iraqi territory last night. Our forces passed through many obstacles including mine fields, barbed wire fences, and explosive traps and penetrated in the heart of enemy positions. They dealt heavy blows to the weakenedforces of the Zionist regime of Baghdad and fulfilled the objec tives of their operation. The connecting bridge on the Qara Sadaf river was destroyed.

In this successful infiltrating operation which took place in order to annihilate as many of the enemy forces as possible and to smash the positions and installations of the defeated Ba'thist Army, the forces of Islam attacked enemy positions situated on Heights No 292 overlooking a pumping station inside Iraq, Height 294 overlooking Khosravi, and heights 343 and 330 overlooking the village of Qara Sadaf inside Iraq. They destroyed more than 2 tanks, 2 machine guns, a considerable amount of logistic equipment, 7 trenches, and 30 foxholes, and all enemy observations posts in the region.

A battalion of the 28th Division of Iraq was completely destroyed and more than 40 enemy soldiers were killed and many more were wounded. Islam's combatants returned to their bases unharmed after completing the operation.

Abadan, Khorramshahr Shelled

GF251425 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit in Abadan, the resistant cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr continued to be the targets of the heavy artillery fire of the criminal Saddamist mercenaries over the past 24 hours. As a result of the shelling, two houses were damaged in Abadan while some damage was also inflicted in Khorramshahr.